FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement broadcast by Baghdad radio, announced to all civilian airlines that all Iranian airspace will be considered an "exclusion zone" effective 1700 GMT on 19 March and that any air target that passes through will be liable to attack. This announcement follows Tehran and Baghdad radio reports of continued bombings of Iranian and Iraqi towns on 16 and 17 March. On 16 March Iran shelled Baghdad with a surface-to-surface missile, according to IRNA. However, INA reported the Baghdad explosion was caused by a booby-trapped car set off by "Iranian agents."

In ground fighting, IRNA asserted that over 12,000 Iraqi troops have been killed or wounded since the start of the Badr offensive on 11 March, While INA maintained that 15,000 Iranian troops were killed on 16 March alone. Iranian forces took control of the Hawr region east of the Tigris, according to an Armed Forces communique broadcast by Tehran radio. Nevertheless, an Iraqi Armed Forces communique contended that the Iranian offensive in this area collapsed, Baghdad radio said. The communique also reported an attack on two "large maritime targets" by Iraqi planes near Khark Island early on 17 March. Meanwhile, a Liberian-registered tanker was attacked by an Iranian plane near Halul Island on 17 March, Gulf shipping sources cited by AFP confirmed.

Gulf War Diplomacy

Iraqi Foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz, in a 16 March letter to the UN Security Council broadcast by Baghdad radio, called on the Security Council to adopt appropriate measures to reach a comprehensive solution to the Iran-Iraq war. Tariq 'Aziz called for an immediate end to all military operations and a withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized borders under UN auspices. Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati departed for visits to Syria, Libya, and Algeria with messages from Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, according to IRNA. These messages, along with those being delivered to other countries by Foreign Ministry officials, note concern over the latest developments in the war, the agency reported.

A 17 March GCC Ministerial Council meeting in Riyadh called for GCC efforts to end the Gulf war, SPA announced. At the meeting Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Jabir stated that GCC countries are responsible for maintaining security, the agency related.

Lebanon

Phalangists and Syria — Syrian forces in the Al-Batrun and Al-Kurah areas moved towards the demarcation lines and positions occupied by Samir Ja'ja' forces, according to Beirut radio. The movement of Syrian forces followed two 15 March warnings to Lebanese forces' "rebels" by Syria against "suspect moves," Radio Monte Carlo noted. Meanwhile, Lebanese Forces "Emergency committee" member Karim Baqraduni held a 17 March news conference, reported by Voice of Lebanon radio, to explain the position of the 12 March movement. Based on his communications with Syrian officials, Baqraduni said, there will be no Syrian "incursions" into "our areas." Baqraduni denied reports that the Phalangists' 12 March Movement is an Israeli movement and stressed that it is not a "coup attempt" against President Amin al-Jumayyil. Baqraduni asserted that the movement wants to bring about a "radical change" in Christian society and declared that "reformist and revolutionary" means will be used to achieve this.

Southern Lebanon — An IDF spokesman announced that two Israeli soldiers were killed in an ambush near Jibshit on 17 March, Jerusalem radio revealed. Meanwhile, the radio also noted that the IDF began dismantling equipment in Jabal al-Baruk and the western sector "ahead of schedule."

Beirut Kidnappings — In an anonymous phone call the Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the kidnappings of the ASSOCIATED PRESS director and two British citizens on 15 and 16 March, AFP disclosed. In a separate development, Voice of Lebanon revealed that Amal gunmen kidnapped a member of the Libyan People's Bureau in Beirut on 16 March.

Egypt-Jordan

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak departed for Amman on 18 March to continue coordination on the Middle East issue with Jordan's King Husayn, MENA reported.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo on 16 March after an 8-day tour which included talks with leaders of the United States, France, Britain, the FRG, and Italy, MENA reported. Asked about U.S. reaction to his Middle East proposal, Mubarak said the objective of the visit was to study the issue, not to get a "negative or positive" response, the agency noted.

Saudi Arabia

A YAR citizen was killed after he hijacked a Saudi Airlines plane during a flight from Jeddah to Kuwait on 17 March, according to a Defense Ministry statement broadcast by Riyadh radio.

Western Sahara

A Saharan Information Ministry statement, cited by Algiers radio, declared that it will impossible to maintain stability as long as Morocco continues to "violate SDAR borders." The statement

added that King Hassan II's tour of southern Morocco proved the absence of Morocco's will to hold "direct negotiations" to resolve the Western Sahara issue.

Sudan

New Defense Minister — President Ja'far Numaryi issued a decree appointing General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab as defense minister and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, SUNA reported.

SPLA Operation — "Heavy fighting" continued on 15 March between Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces and government troops near Mongalla, the clandestine SPLA radio announced. The radio maintained that SPLA forces still control Mongalla garrison which they captured on 13 March and that government forces are "constantly retreating" towards Juba. A Sudanese military spokesman cited by SUNA denied reportsthat SPLA forces control Mongalla and declared that government troops are "in full control."

DRA-Pakistan

Pakistan lodged protests with the DRA charge d'affaires over three incidents of airspace violations and bombings by DRA aircraft on 14 and 16 March in the Arandu area, according to Karachi radio reports. Meanwhile, the DRA Foreign Ministry, in a statement broadcast by Kabul radio, maintained that raids and armed provocations in the Barikowt area by Pakistani military forces have "intensified" recently and declared that these aggressions "must soon halt." Pakistan denied the DRA charges as "fictitious allegations," Karachi radio announced.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 052 *18 March 1985*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Babrak Karmal Returns From Moscow ..... C 1
USSR Extends 'Easy Terms' Credit to DRA ..... C 1
Foreign Ministry Protests Pakistani 'Aggressions' ..... C 1
BAKHTAR Statement on U.S. 'Armed Aggression' ..... C 1

BANGLADESH

Ershad on Referendum, Village-Oriented Politics ..... D 1
National Holiday Declared for Referendum ..... D 1
Fundamentalist Leader Placed Under House Arrest ..... D 1
Delhi Cites School Closure After Student Unrest ..... D 1

INDIA

Envoys To Hold Talks in Baghdad, Tehran ..... E 1
President Welcomes U.S.-Soviet Peace Talks ..... E 1
Six Nations Petition U.S., USSR on Arms Talks ..... E 1
Contact Maintained With Colombo on Ethnic Issue ..... E 1
Finance Minister Presents 1985-86 Budget to Parliament ..... E 1
Details of Budget ..... E 1
Budget's Defense Expenditure ..... E 3
Leaders Respond to Budget ..... E 3
Officials Defend Budget ..... E 4
Survey Predicts 5.2 Percent Annual Growth Rate ..... E 4
Life 'Partially Affected' in Bhopal Strike ..... E 4

PAKISTAN

Zia Addresses Muslim Envoy on Islamization ..... F 1
Zia Discusses Meetings With Gorbachev, Gandhi ..... F 1
Zia on Democratic Institutions, Political Parties ..... F 1
Iranian President's Envoy Meets With Zia ..... F 2
Besharati Meets With Ministers ..... F 2
Airspace Violation by Afghan Planes Protested ..... F 2
Afghan Charges Rejected; Protest Lodged ..... F 2
Hijackers' Trial Resumes; Adjourned Until 30 March ..... F 2
MASHRIQ: Success of Geneva Talks Has World Impact *[12 Mar]* ..... F 3
Mujahidin Inflict Casualties on Soviets ..... F 3

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Athulathmudali on Suspected Separatist Arrests ..... G 1
Athulathmudali on Jaffna 'Anti-terrorist Reactions' ..... G 1
Indian Role as Drug Trafficking Center Cited ..... G 1

IRAN

Khomeyni Addresses Prisoner Review Committee ..... I 1

Velayati Departs for Syria, Libya, Algeria ..... I 1
Officials Take Messages to UAE, Turkey ..... I 1
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Majlis on War ..... I 1
15 Mar Reportage on Badr Operation, War Results ..... I 3
1,300 Killed, 700 Captured ..... I 3
Joint Staff Report ..... I 3
Air Attack on Tehran ..... I 3
Iraq Uses Chemical Weapons ..... I 3
Commentary on Baghdad Missile Strikes ..... I 3
Iraqi Muslims Capture Ba'th HQ ..... I 4
Communique Threatens 'Fatal' Retaliation ..... I 4
Need for Black-Out ..... I 4
Iraq Concerned About Defections ..... I 5
16 Mar Reportage on Badr Offensive, War Results ..... I 5
Baghdad Hit With Missile ..... I 5
'Strategic' Iraqi Bridge Destroyed ..... I 5
Warning to Iraq ..... I 6
Ahvaz Radio Report ..... I 6
Further Ahvaz Report ..... I 6
Fighters Bomb 2 Cities ..... I 6
Forces Clear Hur Region ..... I 6
Iraqi Jets Bomb Tabriz ..... I 6
Iraqi Jets Violate Zanjan, Khorramabad ..... I 7
Announcement on Iraqi Losses ..... I 7
700 More Iraqis Killed ..... I 7
Iraqi Planes Attack Rasht ..... I 7
POW's on Iraqi 'low' Morale ..... I 7
Bushehr on Iranian Callup ..... I 8
Further Warning to Iraq ..... I 8
Basra Shelling Continues ..... I 8
Casualties in 16 Mar Attacks ..... I 8
Iraqi Cities Shelled ..... I 8
Iraqis Bomb Saqqez ..... I 9
Khandaq Logistics Road Seized ..... I 9
Joint Staff Communique 2044 ..... I 9
Kashan Hit ..... I 9
17 Mar Reportage on Badr Operation, War Results ..... I 10
Headquarters Issues 9th Communique ..... I 10
Iraqi Air Force Attacks ..... I 10
Iraqi POW's Comment ..... I 10
IRNA Updates Casualties ..... I 11
Dezful, Andimeshk Casualties ..... I 11
Communique No 10 ..... I 11
Fire on Piranshahr 'Silenced' ..... I 11
Iraq Bombs Kashan ..... I 11
Bakhtaran Casualties ..... I 11
Iraqi Counterattack 'Crushed' ..... I 11
Dezful Suffers Second Attack ..... I 12
Volunteers Called ..... I 12
Operations Center Announces Gains ..... I 12
Attacks on Iraqi Cities ..... I 13
18 Mar Reportage on Badr Operation, War Results ..... I 13
Communique on Badr Results ..... I 13
Another Attack on Baghdad ..... I 14
Tabriz, Arak Attacked ..... I 14
Missiles Fall Close to Palace ..... I 14
Iraqi Warplanes Shot Down ..... I 14
Guard Corps condolences ..... I 15
Baghdad 'In Chaos' ..... I 15
Foreign Ministry Condemns Iraq Threat to Airlines ..... I 15

Babrak Karmal Returns From Moscow

LD151537 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Revolutionary Council, who went to Moscow to take part in the burial ceremony of the late K.U. Chernenko, returned to Kabul at noon.

At Kabul Airport he was welcomed by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; members of the PDPA Central Committee and Secretariat, members of the party's Central Committee; vice chairmen of the Revolutionary Council and Revolutionary Council Presidium; members of the DRA Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers; some members of the Supreme Court; a number of the members of the NFF Executive delegation, high council of ulema and clergy and Islamic affairs department; heads of the social organizations, and Fikryat Akhmedzhanovich Tabeyev, USSR ambassador and extraordinary representative to the DRA.

Babrak Karmal greeted those welcoming him and went to the Revolutionary Council headquarters.

USSR Extends 'Easy Terms' Credit to DRA

LD180915 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul, March 17, BAKHTAR — A longterm credit of 168 million rouble on easy terms will be given by the Soviet Union to the DRA during the period of latter's five years socio-economic development plan.

Repayment of the credit and interest on it will begin three years after the utilization of the credit.

The credit is to be given on the basis of the agreement on technical and economic cooperation between the DRA and the Soviet Union concluded on March 11, in Moscow.

This credit is to be used to repair power transmission lines and electricity sub-stations in Kabul and other power generating establishments in Afghanistan and the construction of a technical station for this purpose.

The credit will also be used for the preparation of a techno-economic [passage indistinct].

Foreign Ministry Protests Pakistani 'Aggressions'

LD161746 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1100 and the following statement was made to him by the official in charge of the first political section:

In accordance with the information of the DRA relevant authorities, the raids and armed provocations by the military forces of Pakistan — stationed in the vicinity of Barikowt region of Konarha Province — have recently been extremely intensified and broadened; and the above forces are continuously shelling Barikowt region with heavy weapons, causing a considerable loss of life and material. For example, as a result of attacks carried out on 16 Hout [16 March] on garrison and Barikowt residential regions, one man was martyred, two men, eight women, and a child were seriously injured, and five houses were destroyed.

In denouncing and condemning these repeated and continuous aggressions by the Pakistani forces, the DRA strongly protests to the Government of Pakistan and mentions that the Pakistani authorities must soon halt these armed attacks and provocations against the DRA, otherwise the heavy and dangerous responsibilities emanating from them will rest on the responsible authorities in Pakistan.

BAKHTAR Statement on U.S. 'Armed Aggression'

LD180934 Kabul BAKHTAR In English 0436 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul, March 17, BAKHTAR — The United States has been desperately striving during the past seven years to stop the victorious march of the April Revolution by organizing armed aggression and launching an unprecedented psychological war against the DRA, said the statement of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY.

The U.S. imperialism, the statement went on to say, which does not refrain from any kind of subversive activities while exporting the armed counter-revolution is making vain efforts to expand the dimensions of the ignominious interventions and aggressions with every passing day in an attempt to install a regime of its liking in Afghanistan. Intervention into the internal affairs of Afghanistan has become the official policy of Washington. In the context of its interventions and aggressions, the U.S. imperialism tries to play down, by resorting to an ignominious psychological war, progressive socio-economic transformations occuring in our country, and to portray a handful of the traitors and plunderers who have lost their interests in our country as so-called "fighters for the cause of freedom". Playing key roles in this organized anti-Afghan propaganda campaign are not only the subversive Western intelligence organizations including the internal espionage organization of CIA, even Ronald Reagan the leader of the so-called "free world" has personally entered the scene, playing false scenarios and taken up the leadership of such interventionist and provocative activities.

In continuation of these hostile actions, the statement added, Reagan, the representative of U.S. military monopolies, has shamelessly taken the initiative of playing various tricks and juggleries such as organizing mock tribunes and setting up the so-called committees of aid to the refugees and proclaiming self-made days.

We seriously warn this notorious juggler of the capitalist world that the people of Afghanistan have a bright history and genuine and prideful commemorative days of their own and do not need the days dictated by Reagan.

In reality, all these sham and meaningless measures are aimed at providing a smokescreen for the inhuman crimes, aggressive policy and shameful interventions launched by U.S. Administration vis-a-vis the turbulent and just protests of the Afghan people against the U.S. policies.

Today, it is not a secret for anybody that Washington has practically been changed into a genuine command centre of the undeclared war against the DRA, and the CIA has launched against our country one of its biggest operations after the Vietnam war. The confessions of the sold-out agents and spies and the documents obtained testify to this fact.

The United States plans to spend 280 million dollars for financing secret military activities of the Afghan counter-revolutionary elements in addition to giving them modern weapons such as (?rocket-launchers), high-charge [word indistinct], anti-tank plastic mines, incendiary weapons, [word indistinct] rockets, [word indistinct] machineguns and others, the statement emphasised.

The total (?expenditure in) the undeclared war against our country during less than seven years amount to 638 million dollars. This amount is in addition money which the USA has paid out of the tax-payers' [word indistinct] for financing the huge purchases of weapons from Egypt and China and their transportation to the frontiers of the [word indistinct].

The number of the U.S. military advisors, instructors and experts in the over 120 camps of the military [word indistinct] of the saboteurs and the cut-throats of the Afghan counter-revolution in the territory of Pakistan had reached to [word indistinct] till the end of 1984. Owing to the fizzling out of the U.S. plans [word indistinct] of the counter-revolution have not suffered fatal blows last year, the USA plans to further increase the number of its advisors.

The insatiable rancour of the world notorious US imperialism and the war-mongering Reagan Administration and its overt and covert complicity with the brutal counter-revolution in fighting against our revolution and people are clear manifestations of the state terrorism of the Washington Administration. This is not a new phenomenon for the people of the DRA and the peoples of the world, and it is not something unexpected.

This phenomenon has already been manifest in the collaboration of Washington with a handful of mercenary counter-revolutionaries in Nicaragua, and Kampuchea and a number of accursed oppressive dictators in Chile, Pakistan, El Salvador, Honduras and South Africa.

While decisively condemning with wrath and indignation, the expansion of the dimensions of the treacherous aggression of imperialism, in particular of US imperialism, the DRA will never flinch for even a moment in the revolutionary struggle against these world devourers who are doomed to dreadful defeat and disgrace.

The experience of life is indicative that despite these intrigues and conspiracies the process of the development of [word indistinct] revolution is successfully forging ahead. Our people are even increasingly rallying around their revolutionary state, and they are safeguarding the gains of the revolution, the statement concluded.

Ershad on Referendum, Village-Oriented Politics

BK120759 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The president and chief martial law administrator [CMLA], Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has urged the freedom fighters to make relentless efforts with the same spirit they demonstrated during our war of independence to reach the fruits of independence to the doorsteps of the common man. He was addressing the members of the central command council of the Muktijodha Sangsad [freedom fighters' organization] and commanders and deputy commanders of district units in Dhaka yesterday evening.

Referring to the 21 March referendum, the president said it is the day for seeking popular verdict in favor of consolidating peace and discipline in the country. Maintenance of peace and discipline is a must for ensuring unhindered development of the country. The freedom fighters, who termed the president as their guardian, renewed their pledge to carry forward his people welfare-oriented programs. They said they will not hesitate to shed the last drop of their blood to safeguard the country's independence and integrity.

The presidential adviser on freedom fighters and chairman of the central command council and state minister for youth development and sports, Mr Zakir Khan Chowdhury, also spoke on the occasion. The principal staff officer to the CMLA, Major General M. Atiquar Rahman, was also present.

Earlier in the day while addressing the chairmen and members of (Belduar) Upazila [subdistrict] in Tangail, President Ershad stressed the need for pursuing politics for improving the lot of the common man through sustained development efforts. He said the days of urban-based politics must come to an end and it should be village oriented with the total involvement of the local leaders in the development of their respective areas. In this context, he referred to the creation of upazila system and said the election of upazila chairman would bring about improvement in the development efforts in rural Bangladesh.

Referring to the circumstances which led him to seek people's verdict on his government's policies and programs and his continuation as president, he said frequent hartals [strikes], indiscipline, and the disturbance of peace and tranquillity in the society left his government with no other alternative but to go for referendum. The president said his government had accommodated all the viewpoints of the opposition political parties and made sincere efforts repeatedly for holding elections to establish a representative government. The political parties continued to show aversion in facing the people in the polls and resorted to activites which made public life miserable. He said no government could tolerate such predicament and martial law had to be stringently reinforced and it was welcomed by the people from all walks of life.

National Holiday Declared for Referendum

BK180943 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] The government has declared a general holiday on 20 and 21 March — that is, Wednesday and Thusday — in connection with the referendum. All government offices, courts, autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies, banks, insurance companies, mills and factories, and industrial establishments in Bangladesh will observe the holiday. It may be mentioned that the referendum will start countrywide on Thursday, 21 March, from 0800 [0200 GMT] and continue until 1700 [1100 GMT].

Fundamentalist Leader Placed Under House Arrest

HK151624 Hong Kong AFP in English 1531 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Dhaka, March 15 (AFP) — A rightwing anti-government religious leader, Moulana Mahmudullah Hafezzi Huzur, was put under house arrest in Bangladesh today, informed sources said. The sources said Hafezzi Huzur, the 90-year old leader of Bangladesh Khilafat Movement, a fundamentalist party opposed to the military regime, had been asked not to leave his residence here.

Followers of Hafezzi Huzur had planned to hold a rally today in defiance of martial law restrictions on political activities, informed sources said.

The sources said that about a dozen of the followers of the religious leader had been rounded up by police to forestall any campaign against next week's referendum.

Military ruler President Hussain Mohammed Ershad has set March 21 for the referendum to seek vote of confidence in his rule and policies until national polls are held under the country's suspended Constitution.

On March 1, President Ershad while announcing his referendum plan banned all political activities through a tightened martial law.

The country's two women opposition leaders, Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the 15 Party Alliance and Begum Khaleda Zia of the Seven Party Combine, had been put under house arrest this month.

Delhi Cites School Closure After Student Unrest

BK180344 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] In Bangladesh, all schools and colleges have been closed from today for a week in the wake of widespread student unrest. The government had earlier ordered the closure of six universities and over a dozen medical colleges and technical institutions. The authorities said that several institutions will be used as polling centers for President Ershad's proposed referendum on the 21st of this month.

Envoys To Hold Talks in Baghdad, Tehran

BK171557 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Two Indian envoys reputed to go to Baghdad and Tehran will be holding discussions with the leaders of the two countries tomorrow. Our Gulf correspondent Prem Chand Ariya understands that the emissaries are carrying messages from the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, expressing concern of the nonaligned over the recent flareup in the Gulf war.

President Welcomes U.S.-Soviet Peace Talks

BK171016 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The president has welcomed the resumption of peace talks between the superpowers in Geneva. Addressing a convention of the World Constitution and Parliament Association in New Delhi today, Giani Zail Singh hoped the talks would yield meaningful results. He said India is trying to achieve a just world order based on equality and justice in cooperation with other nations to reduce tensions in the world, but the threat of a nuclear war is the most important challenge before humanity. In this connection, he referred to the efforts by India, Argentina, Greece, Sweden, Mexico, and Tanzania to save the world from any atomic disaster.

Giani Zail Singh said the ideal of a world parliament is in line with the ancient Indian thinking that the entire humanity is one family. He recalled the preaching of Ravi Das — a 14th century saint of Varanasi — who had visualized the world as a single country free from any discrimination.

Six Nations Petition U.S., USSR on Arms Talks

BK150930 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] India and five other signatories to the Delhi Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament have requested the Soviet Union and the United States to take into account at their current Geneva talks the concern expressed by them over the issue. The ambassadors of these countries in a joint statement said that the six nations attach great importance to the proclaimed objective of these negotiations on halting the arms race.

Contact Maintained With Colombo on Ethnic Issue

BK151609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] India is in constant touch with Sri Lankan authorities to explore possibilities of defusing the situation in Sri Lanka. Making a statement on the situation in Sri Lanka in both houses of parliament today, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, reiterated that India believes that only a political solution within the framework of Sri Lanka's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity acceptable to all concerned can solve the ethnic problem. The minister said that it has been conveyed to the Sri Lankan Government that there should be no Army excesses. It may also be ensured that no more refugees cross over to India, and conditions created for the return of the refugees.

Replying to points raised in the Rajya Sabha, the minister said full protection is being given to our fishermen inside our maritime zone. He said patrolling by the coast guard has been intensified, the Navy alerted, and additional air surveillance introduced. Mr Khurshid Alam Khan said that certain foreign agencies have been brought to advise Sri Lanka for training purposes, and India is fully aware of this.

Finance Minister Presents 1985-86 Budget to Parliament

Details of Budget

BK161538 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1320 GMT 16 Mar 85

["Special bulletin"]

[Text] Substantial income tax relief, abolition of estate duty and compulsory deposit scheme, major concessions for electronic industry, and the hike in the prices of petroleum products and cement are the highlights of the general budget for the coming year. License fees for radio and TV sets have been abolished. The budget was presented to the parliament this evening by the finance minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

Abolition of export duty on 12 items including iron ore and raw cotton, reduction in the duty of project import costs and total duty exemption for fertilizer equipment, a further 5-year tax holiday for certain industries, concessions for certain life-saving drugs and medical equipment, and the rise in the price of better quality soap and laundry soap, and a gentle push to the prices of soft drinks are the other salient features of the budget.

The tax measures proposed by the finance minister are estimated to yield a net additional revenue of 443 crore rupees. Of this, the state share will be 132 crores. A deficit of 3,349 crore rupees has been left uncovered, which is lower than that of the current year. In his proposals, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh gave a substantial relief of 397 crore rupees by proposing to abolish all surcharges and raising the exemption limit of income tax from 15,000 to 18,000 rupees. The finance minister said the aim is to make the income tax structure simple and reasonable.

He also announced the restructuring of the rate schedule, which will result in reduction of tax at all levels of income tax. The maximum rate of tax will now be 60 percent. The rate of income tax between 18,001 and 25,000 rupees will be 25 percent, for the next slab up to 50,000 the rate will be 30 percent, and between 50,001 and 100,000 it will be 40 percent. The tax exemption limit for the wealth tax has been raised from 150,000 to 250,000 rupees. The tax rate has also been reduced. The maximum marginal rate will now be 2 percent. The finance minister also announced the consolidated exemption of 500,000 rupees, which will include the exemption of unit trusts and deposits under the national deposit schemes. While announcing the abolition of compulsory deposit scheme, the finance minister said that the

repayment of installments and the payment of interests in respect of earlier deposits will be postponed for 1 year.

The finance minister has cheering news to the central government employees retiring on or after the 31st of March [1985]. He proposed that the entire dearness [cost of living] allowance will be taken into account as pay for calculating pension. On the top of it, he proposed removing the present ceiling of pension of 1,500 rupees per month. Gratuity also will be up to a limit of 50,000 rupees instead of the present 36,000 rupees. For those earning bonus, now the ceiling for calculating their bonus will be 1,600 rupees instead of 750 as at present.

He also announced a social security scheme to cover the risk of death by accident in respect of earning member of poor families comprising landless laborers, small and marginal farmers, traditional craftsmen, and others not coming under any insurance scheme or worksmen compensation arrangements. Under the scheme, a sum of 3,000 rupees will be paid to the dependents of the deceased. The scheme will be introduced in 100 districts in the country to begin with.

For listeners of radio and viewers of television, the finance minister announced the abolition of license fees. The VCR's also will enjoy the same benefit. However, a 1-term fee of 100 rupees will be charged. All black and white TV sets will cost less. It has been fully exempted from excise duty.

About the abolition of estate duty, the finance minister said that it has not acheived the objectives for which it was introduced. While the use of the duty is only 20 crore rupees, its cost of administration was relatively high.

Regarding corporate sector, the budget proposes to reduce the basic rate of income tax by 5 percentage points. In the case of certain categories of closely (?held) companies, this will be reduced by 10 percentage points — from 65 to 55. In view of these reductions, the grant of additional depreciation in respect to machinery and plant installed after 31st of March 1985 will be discontinued. Some other concessions announced earlier will also be discontinued. The tax holiday concession to new industrial undertakings, hotels, and ships purchased before the beginning of next month will be continued for a further period of 5 years.

For the electronics industry the finance minister announced a package of concessions. Computers will be fully exempted from excise duty. Certain advance type of computers also totally exempted from import duty. Besides, four major components for manufacturing computers will now attract only 25 percent customs duty as against 75 percent at present. This is aimed to bring down the cost of computers made in the country.

One of the major attempts of the finance minister to bring additional revenue is to increase auxiliary import duty on crude petroleum from the present rate of 100 rupess per tonne to 300 rupees. A basic customs duty of 10 percent ad valorem will also be imposed. The revenue from these proposals together will yield 620 crore rupees a year. The finance minister indicated that there will be an increase in the price of petroleum products.

Another important source of additional revenue will be a rise in the excise duty on cement. It has been raised from 205 to 225 rupees per metric ton for common varities of cement. The measure will net an additional revenue of about 68 crore rupees.

By raising the duty from 10 to 12 percent on some items not covered under any specific category, the finance minister proposes to net 185 crore rupees. Of this, 125 crere rupees will come as central excise annually. A rise of 5 percent in excise duty on vegetable products will bring to the central exchequer an additional 70 crore rupees.

Donations to the Indira Gandhi memorial trust have been placed at par to the donations of other national funds. Donations to the prime minister's relief fund will qualifty for 100 percent tax deductions instead of 50 percent as at present.

Loopholes for tax evasion will be further tightened. The existing provisions for the grant of immunity to those who make disclosures only after incriminating books of accounts and assets are seized by the income tax personnel will be removed. The finance minister proposes to have a dialogue with the states and other authorities for setting up special courts to try tax evaders.

To give a further boost to exports, he proposes abolition of export duty on 12 items. Besides iron ore and raw cotton, these will include manganese ore, chromite ore and concentrates, cotton waste, animal feed, manganese diaoxide, [word indistinct] and raw wool. Export duty will now be levied only on four items — coffee, unmanufactured tobacco, certain types of mica, and hides and skins. The concession amounts to a little over 15 crore rupees. Specified machinery used for leather processing will attract reduced customs duty. Raw hides and skins, (?crossed) leather, and finished cattle leather will be fully exempted from import duty. Gems and jewelry machinery imports have been given further concessions. For woolen textile industry, customs duty on raw wool will be reduced from 50 to 40 percent ad valorem.

The basic excise duty on commercial vehicles will go up from 10 percent to 15 percent ad valorem. On 3-axel vehicles, the increase will be from 7.5 percent to 10 percent ad valorem. This would yield about 45 crore rupees. However, they will be given credit of the duty paid on tires and batteries. The small scale sector is being given a new fillip by raising the cutoff limit for excise duty exemption from 25 lakh rupees to 75 lakh rupees. This proposal results in a revenue loss of 20 crore rupees.

In respect of textile industry, the finance minister proposes to give concessions totaling about 14 crore rupees. Unprocessed cotton fabrics will be fully exempted from duty. Duty on cotton yarn, however, goes up by 25 percent. Some polyester-wool blended fabrics will cost less. Handloom fabric will continue to enjoy exemption.

About the proposed reform of the corporate tax, the finance minister said next year the basic rate of income tax in the case of all categories of companies would be further reduced by 5 percent. In the 3d year, the surcharge on income tax and (?sale) tax will be abolished. The grant of investment allowance will be discontinued in a phased manner during the next 2 years. Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh also announced that certain industries

will be de-licensed to cut procedural delays. The asset limt for MRTP [Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices] companies is being revised to 100 crore rupees. The ceiling of investment in plant and machinery for small scale industries is being raised from 20 lakh rupees to 30 lakh rupees. In respect of ancillaries, the ceiling will be 45 lakhs instead of 25 lakhs. Maximum interest on covertible debentures of non-MRTP and non-[word indistinct] companies is being raised from 13.5 percent to 15 percent. A special legislation for sick units [running on loss] will be brought forward.

Giving the budget estimates for the coming year, the finance minister said the central assistance to state plans is being increased to about 6,000 crores as compared with 4,313 crores in the current financial year. This represents an increase of 39 percent. The states have also been authorized to go in for higher market borrowing to the tune of 1,600 crores — an increase of 20 percent over 1984-85. Making it clear that the center will not bear the additional burden of overdrafts by the states, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh urged the state governments to make an earnest effort at mobilizing more resources. Plan outlays for union territories have been fixed at 640 crores as against 558 crores this year. The central plan for the coming year has been fixed at 18,500 crore rupees as compared with 17,351 crores this year.

Before announcing the new taxation proposal, the finance minister said though the formulation of the budget is an annual exercise, it has to be set in a longer time frame to be meaningful. A long-term fiscal policy coterminous with the plan will be formulated. He hoped to initiate a debate on this after the budget session is over.

An important priority in the area of direct taxes is to create an environment for growth, productivity, and savings. A system which will achieve these objectives will also secure better tax compliance. It will also be more equitable. In respect of indirect taxes, the immediate task is to reduce cost of investments in priority sectors and encourage the growth of the small scale sector.

The finance minsiter ended his budget speech with the words of Mrs Indira Gandhi, who said: We all have faith in new India. Let us put our shoulder to the wheel.

Budget's Defense Expenditure

BK161558 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Substantial income tax relief, abolition of estate duty and compulsory deposit scheme, major concessions to electronics industry, and a hike in prices of petroleum products and cement are the highlights of the general budget for the coming year presented to the parliament this evening by the finance minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

Defense expenditure next year is placed at 7,686 crore rupees.

Leaders Respond to Budget

BK170528 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The first budget of the new government has evoked mixed reactions. The former finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, described it as a bold and imaginative budget. The Jammu and Kashmir deputy chief minister, M D.D. Thakur, said it reflects a major shift in the priorities in longer interest of economy. Janata Party leader, Mr H.M. Patel, has described certain measures proposed as good. But by and large, the budget is inflationary, he added. The Orissa chief minister, Mr J.B. Patnaik, said the new social security scheme will be a great help to the people. The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, however, described the budget as antipeople. He said only the rich will be happy about it. The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, felt that the finance minister did not venture on any bold, imaginative and real effort to reform and reorganize the economy. The Rajasthan chief minister, Mr Haridev Joshi, welcomed the increased central assistance to the states and said the proposed restrictions on overdrafts will bring financial discipline in the states.

Professor N.G. Ranga, Congress-I, said it is the peasants' and workers' budget. But Sultan Salahudin Owaisi, of Muslim Majlis, said the budget did not take care of the needs of the common man. The Madhya Pradesh chief minister, Mr Motilal Vohra, said the income tax relief will greatly benefit the middle and lower classes. Commenting on the budget proposals, the CPI leader, Mr Rajeshwara Rao, said the proposals are balanced. However, the general secretary of the CPI-M, Mr E.M.S. Nambudiripad, said the budget proposals are intended to flatter the rich. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] general secretary, Mr L.K. Advani, said the union budget is a highly inflationary one. The hike in prices of petroleum products and cement will have an all-round impact on prices.

The noted film actor, Mr Sunil Dutt, is disappointed as there are no concessions for the film industry. However, he said, the budget is, by and large, interesting.

The Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Party [DMKP] said, in reality, the budget has given no relief to the common man. In a statement, the DMKP leader, Mr S.P. Malavia, said the sugar-coated budget has hit hard every section of the society. The Janata Party leader, Mr Madhu Dandavate, said the massive deficit financing will result in high increase in prices. The Congress-S president, Mr Sharad Pawar, welcomed the legal action against donations to political parties and said it will help in cleansing public life. The leader of Telugu Desam Parliamentary Party, Mr P. Upendra, said the budget proposals did not touch the basic problem of India's economy in the field of employment and reduction of prices.

The industrial and commercial world generally complimented the new government for presenting an imaginative budget. The president of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr Ramakrishna Bajaj, said for the first time the budget proposals have been designed to give a definite direction to the economy. The Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry said the abolition of estate duty and the decision to

permit company contributions for political parties should [be] held in creating a cleaner society.

The president of the Bharat Chamber of Commerce, Mr Tarachandra Singhal, congratulated the finance minister for fiscal relief. The president of the Indian Chamber of Comerce, Mr R.S. Lodha, said the proposals reflected a pragmatic and positive thinking. The Indian council of small industries described the budget proposals as sweeping, balanced, and pragmatic -- ushering in a leap forward in real terms.

Officials Defend Budget

BK170914 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The Finance Ministry officials have said that the uncovered deficit of over 3,300 crores in the central budget will not add to the inflation. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, they said the deficit can be absorbed in the mainstream of the economy in view of the reasonable growth rate. They pointed out that the gross national product is expected to be higher by 10 percent next year. The basic approach of the budget is to maintain growth with stability. A conscious attempt has been made to remove constraint that had affected the industrial growth in the past. A number of policy initiatives have been taken to achieve this end. The high level of food stocks will provide built-in protection against any possible failure of monsoon. The foreign exchange reserves are also reasonably good. They hope to control price increase through proper supply management.

About the increase in petroleum prices, they said it has become inevitable in view of the rise in dollar exchange rates. They further pointed out the combination of changes in the tax structure attempted in the budget has never been done before. They hoped that these changes would not only result in better tax compliances but also encourage a higher level of investment activities.

Survey Predicts 5.2 Percent Annual Growth Rate

BK151237 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The prebudget economic survey for 1984-85 says the economy is in a strong position as a result of the impressive achievements during the current financial year. The survey was presented to parliament today by the finance minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

It says that the gross national product is expected to increase by 4 percent this year. With this, the economy will have achieved the 6th plan target of an annual average growth rate of 5.2 percent. The per capita income has increased by about 3 percent per year during the 5 year period. The survey also notes the rise in food grains production, rapid industrial growth in the last 2 years, and major increases in power and crude oil production. The survey says that inflation was as low as 5.2 percent in December last year as compared to 12.5 percent in December 1983. The country's balance of payments showed a further improvement in the current year. The foreign exchange reserves increased by about 547 crore rupees till the end of January this year. The trade defecit in the first 8 months of the current year is estimated at 317 crores. This is slightly lower than the deficit recorded over the same period in the previous year. The large inflow of remittances from Indian workers abroad and inflows from nonresidents are partly responsible for the improvement in the foreign exchange reserve.

The survey underlines the need to show continued improvement in agricultural performance if the economy is to grow at 5 percent per year in the 7th plan. The survey draws attention to the need for a fresh look at the industrial and trade policies to create necessary conditions for 8 to 9 percent industrial growth rate. There has to be much greater fiscal discipline and the state governments should give up the tendency to resort to overdrafts.

In view of the increasing debt service ratio, the survey feels it is essential to keep future commercial borrowings within strict limits of prudent debt management. The survey also underlines the need for effective implementation of population policies.

The finance minister made it clear in the Lok Sabha today that no state will be allowed to exceed its overdraft as on the 28th of January this year. He said the Reserve Bank has been advised to stop payments of those states whose overdrafts exceed this level for 7 continuous working days. He said there is no proposal to adjust overdrafts of the states with the proposed money they are to get on the recommendations of the 8th finance commission. Uttar Pradesh tops the list of overdrafts with over 311 crore rupees, followed by Kerala with over 222 crores and West Bengal 221 crores.

Life 'Partially Affected' in Bhopal Strike

BK151250 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] In Bhopal, life was partially affected today by a Bundh [strike] called by the students agituating against the new reservation policy [reserving jobs, educational opportunities, and so forth for the underprivileged]. While the main markets in the city remained closed, banks and government offices functioned normally. Vehicular traffic is not affected. There is no report of any untoward incident from anywhere.

Zia Addresses Muslim Envoy on Islamization

BK091111 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said the general elections and the constitutional amendments carried out recently will give continuity to government's policies and strengthen stability in the country. The president said this while addressing the ambassadors of Muslim countries based in Islamabad today. Explaining his program of August 12, 1983, the salient features of amendments in the 1973 constitution, the background of the referendum, and the general elections, he said the government was keen to establish an Islamic system in the country. He said it was making all efforts to implement true Islamic order based on the teachings of the holy Koran. The steps taken in this regard, he said, were nearer to Islam and he hoped this would help in the Islamization process. The president said he would welcome from them as Muslim brothers any suggestion which would help implement the Islamic system in the country.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said about 53 percent turnout of voters in the national assembly elections was very good by any standards.

The ambassador of Qatar, Mr Muhammad 'Ali al-Ansari, who is also the dean of the diplomatic corps, thanked the president on behalf of all the Muslim envoys for explaining to them the salient features of the constitutional amendments and the elections. He congratulated the president on holding honest, peaceful, and free elections in the country.

Zia Discusses Meetings With Gorbachev, Gandhi

BK151646 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said he had a detailed, separate meeting with the new Soviet leader, Gorbachev, in Moscow and a useful exchange of views with him, first of all on the Afghan problem. He said this while addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi today following his return from Moscow after attending the funeral of the late Soviet president, Mr Chernenko.

About his meeting in Moscow with the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, the president said both of them agreed on carrying forward the process of normalization of bilateral relations.

In reply to a question, the president expressed the hope that all problems, including the Kashmir issue, can be resolved through peaceful negotiations provided the two countries [India and Pakistan] create a congenial atmosphere and maintain a good relationship between them.

In reply to another question, the president said Pakistan has to make its eastern and western borders secure. We have made our western border secure and strong, and with the progress in the process of normalization of relations with India, Pakistan will have to pay comparatively less attention to its eastern border.

About the escalation in the Iran-Iraq war, the president said that almost all the leaders who met him in Moscow have asked Pakistan to help in ending this tragic war. He said Pakistan wants the two countries to stop their fighting, which is causing massive losses of life and property.

The president congratulated the newly elected senators.

Later, during his brief visit to Peshawar, the president met with the National Assembly members and senators elected from the Northwest Frontier Province [NWFP] and federally administered tribal areas. Before leaving Peshawar for Lahore, the president told newsmen that he has apprised the national Assembly Members and senators from NWFP and federally administered tribal areas of his views on the question of nominating a prime minister. It is his endeavor that a prime minister be nominated before 23 March, he added. About the nomination of provincial chief ministers, he said he did not exchange views on this matter. No decision in this regard was made at the moment because, in his opinion, this question should be considered after the appointment of the prime minister because coordination beween a prime minister and chief ministers is essential.

The president reiterated that some people are involved in the narcotics trade, and the government will not tolerate it. The government holds tribals in high esteem and has given them numerous concessions, but it will not compromise on principles. The president later arrived in Lahore on a brief visit.

Zia on Democratic Institutions, Political Parties

BK170956 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has expressed the confidence that stable institutions will be established in the country with the cooperation of the newly elected representatives of the people. Addressing a news conference at Lahore Airport before his departure for Islamabad this evening, he said during his stay in the provincial capital he had meetings with the MNA's [Members of National Assembly]-elect from the Punjab.

Earlier, he had similar meetings with the MNA's-elect at Quetta and then at Peshawar. He said he was happy to note during these meetings with the elected representatives that they fully endorse his views and their response is very encouraging about finding suitable persons for the key posts of the prime minister, speaker, and deputy speaker of the National Assembly, and chairman and deputy chairman of the Senate. The president said all efforts will be made to select honest and competent persons for these key positions. He said there was some grouping, but the elected representatives were fully in agreement with him that there should be no groupings at present. It was up to the National Assembly to decide whether or not there should be political parties. Till then, the whole house was hizb al-Allah [God's party] and there should be also a hizb-i-ihtisab [the party capable of being accounted for] which actually is the part of the hizb al-Allah.

He told a questioner that he did not believe in the opposition just for the sake of opposition. The president announced that it has been decided to exempt candidates on filing the returns of election expenditure this time. For the future, he said, the National Assembly will guide and find some right and simple methods in this matter. In reply to a question, the president said the elected representatives will help the government to take measures for the elimination of bribery and other social evils.

The president met separately MNA's-elect from Sargoda, Rawalpindi, Deraghazikhan, Bahawalpur, Multan, and Faisalabad divisions in Lahore today. The Punjab governor, Lieutenant General Ghulam Jilani Khan, was also present. The president later returned to Rawalpindi.

Iranian President's Envoy Meets With Zia
BK170756 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] The Iranian deputy foreign minister and special envoy of President Khamenei, Mr Mohammad Besharati, called on the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi this evening and delivered to him a special message from the Iranian president. He also conveyed the Iranian president's warm greetings and felicitations to the president on the overwhelming mandate given to him by the people of Pakistan in the referendum as well as in the elections held recently. He conveyed President Khamenei's desire to further consolidate Iran's close and brotherly relations with Pakistan.

The special envoy also discussed the Iran-Iraq war. The president reaffirmed his government's resolve to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and brotherhood between the two countries. Regarding the Iran-Iraq war, the president expressed Pakistan's deep anguish and concern over its continuation and particularly in the recent escalation of war, which has resulted in the bombardment of civilian targets.

The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and the Iranian ambassador were also present on the occasion.

Besharati Meets With Ministers
BK171618 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The Iranian deputy foreign minister, Mohammad Besharati, met separately with Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the federal finance minister, and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the foreign minister, in Islamabad today. He discussed with the finance minister matters relating to promotion of economic cooperation and trade between Pakistan and Iran. The Iranian deputy foreign minister said his country desires to increase cooperation with Pakistan in various fields. A delegation of Iranian agricultural experts will soon visit Pakistan to help boost agricultural production in Pakistan, he added.

The finance minister told the Iranian deputy minister that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Iran and, in this context, he referred to the establishment of the joint ministerial commission for promotion of bilateral economic cooperation. He stressed the need for further increasing the volume of trade between the two countries. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the revival and reactivation of cooperation among Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey under the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

In his meeting with the foreign minister, Besharati exchanged views on the Iran-Iraq war, the regional situation, and matters of mutual interest.

Airspace Violation by Afghan Planes Protested
BK151533 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Afghan aircraft violated Pakistani airspace in the Arandu area of Chitral twice yesterday. In this incident, four Afghan aircraft and two helicopters dropped five bombs and fired a number of rockets, killing two people.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the foreign office this afternoon and a strong protest was lodged with him over these unprovoked attacks.

Meanwhile in Peshawar, when the president's attention was drawn by newmen to the continued violation of Pakistani airspace by the Karmal administration, he said this is not a good sign. He expressed the hope that the Kabul administration will realize that there is a limit to patience.

Afghan Charges Rejected; Protest Lodged
BK171033 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Four Afghan aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace yesterday by 3 km and dropped two bombs and fired a few rockets 1 km south of Arandu. No damage or casualties were caused.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad this afternoon and a strong protest was lodged with him over this unprovoked attack.

The Pakistan Government has rejected the protest made by the Kabul authorities yesterday. It was alleged in the protest that on the 6th of this month firing from the Pakistan (? territory had) taken place at Barikowt in Konarh Province, as a result of which there has been loss of life and property. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad this afternoon and informed of Paksitan's rejection of the protest made by the Kabul authorities. He was asked to convey to his authorities to desist from making such fictitious allegations.

Hijackers' Trial Resumes; Adjourned Until 30 March
BK181027 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] The trial of Gajinder Singh and four others charged with the hijacking of an Indian airliner was resumed in a special court,

Punjab, in Lahore this morning. The accused informed the court that they had engaged Mr S.M. Zafar, Khwaja Sultan Ahmad, Dr Abdul Basit, and Mr Wasim Sajjad as their defense counsels and they had held preliminary meetings with all of them except Mr Zafar, who was out of the country. Choudhary Ejaz Ahmad, advocate, appeared on behalf of Mr Zafar and informed the court that he was returning home from abroad on the 27th or 28th of this month. The accused requested the court that they should be allowed to meet Mr S.M. Zafar before the next hearing. The court then adjourned to meet again on the 30th of this month.

MASHRIQ: Success of Geneva Talks Has World Impact
GF171357 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 12 Mar 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Talks on Cutback in Nuclear Arms"]

[Text] The disarmament talks commencing 12 March in Geneva between the United States and the Soviet Union are of exceptional importance for the peace and stability of the world. Outwardly the talks are limited to the two superpowers, but in fact these talks will affect the whole world. Not only these two powers but all nations of the world would like to safeguard humanity from the dangers of a nuclear war. Even the countries formally bound in defense pacts wish to keep their region away from nuclear arms. The West European countries, along with the United States, are aligned in NATO, but public opinion in all those countries is against deploying American medium-range nuclear missiles in their homeland. Similarly, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States have been allies in a defense pact for the last 34 years, but New Zealand has declined to receive in its ports American warships equipped with nuclear arms. The party in power in Australia also is against having nuclear arms in its own territory. The other southeastern countries also want to keep their territories clear of nuclear arms. South Asian and Indian Ocean countries also want to keep their countries free of nuclear arms.

This gives the superpowers an idea as to how much the world hates these destructive nuclear arms. Therefore, it would be in the interest of world peace if both superpowers work sincerely toward the proposed cut in nuclear arms and abstain from deploying their nuclear arms in different parts of the world simply to expand their influence in those countries and to harm the interests of the other. The United States has made it a matter of its prestige to deploy its nuclear-equipped naval and Air Force units in various parts of the world and to launch a defense research program in Space, even though its allies do not support it. Even by keeping a power balance, both countries can agree in regard to their disarmament programs. They should sign some agreement in their Geneva talks to save the world from the threat of a nuclear war.

The United States is chained various countries to its defense pacts, but this is not a John Foster Dulles era. This is an era of nonalignment. Small member countries of this movement now consider an alliance with a big country a danger to its security. It is on this account that the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization and CENTO pacts have disappeared. The ANZUS agreement is facing dismemberment. NATO-member countries also are stressing peaceful coexistence instead of confrontation with the Soviet Union. The United States is annoyed with a small country, like Pakistan, about its atomic program, but it does not realise that the whole world is against its efforts to gain superiority in nuclear arms. If the superpowers are sincere in their desire that there should be no nuclear war, and that peace and security should reign in the world, then they should quickly find a way to introduce cutbacks in their arms production. The Geneva talks are a criterion of their sincerity.

Mujahidin Inflict Casualties on Soviets
BK170742 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, Afghan Mujahidin killed more than 17 Soviet-Karmal soldiers and took several prisoners in recent, separate attacks in Qandahar. In these operations, Mujahidin destroyed several tanks and seized some jeeps and ammunition. In yet another action, a Soviet artillery division comprising 100 armored vehicles, going from Ghazni toward the border area of Paktia, was forced to flee by the Mujahidin. In this operation, the Mujahidin killed 35 Soviet soliders.

SRI LANKA

Athulathmudali on Suspected Separatist Arrests

HK140838 Hong Kong AFP in English 0816 GMT 14 Mar 85

[By Neville de Silva]

[Text] Colombo, March 14 (AFP) — Over 100 suspected Tamil separatists have been rounded up by security forces in the north and east in the last 10 days, government sources said today.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that among those detained for interrogation was a local leader of one of the main militant groups.

Identified as Ratnam Krishnamoorthy, the Eastern Province leader of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT) had given the security forces vital information on separatist activity, the minister said.

He was arrested with seven others in the east coast district of Batticaloa last week when police raided a hideout of PLOT, one of the six main groups fighting for a separate Tamil state in the north and east.

Mr. Athulathmudali said that Mr. Krishnamoorthy admitted he had undergone guerrilla training abroad and was providing information about the activities of other separatists.

The minister said that yesterday's early morning attack on the Medawachchiya police station, the first outside the troubled Northern and Eastern Provinces, could have been the work of a new, unidentified militant group.

Separatists armed with small arms and bombs attacked the North Central Province station, but were repulsed by police reinforcements after an exchange of fire lasting half an hour, official sources said. There were no casualties on either side.

Mr. Athulathmudali said that some 15 separatists later attacked a deserted railway station in frustration.

"The terrorists have built up so much expectation among their people that their own people are becoming unhappy at the achievements of the terrorists," the minister said.

He said that Tamils in the north and east were demanding results from the militants who were becoming frustrated at their lack of achievement. This had become evident during the interrogation of several of those rounded up, he added.

As a result the militants had launced attacks on police stations outside the north and east hoping that they would be easier targets, Mr. Athulathmudali said.

Sections of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamil minority are waging a bloody campaign for a separate state in the north and east claiming they're discriminated against by the Sinhalese majority.

An official 632 people have been killed in separatist related violence since November.

Athulathmudali on Jaffna 'Antiterrorist Reactions'

BK171109 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, had said that the people of this country were maintaining peace despite various statements made by Mr Amirthalingam, who is now in political darkness. He is now in Madras engaged in an unsuccessful attempt to provoke the majority community in Sri Lanka. He is the pioneer in false propaganda launched by the terrorists.

Addressing the final night of the 102d Mahapola at Moratuwa yesterday, the minister said that the Indian prime minister had already given the answer to Mr Amirthalingam by turning down an appeal for Indian intervention in Sri Lanka. The minister said that Rajiv Gandhi has pointed out that India had no intention of intervening militarily in Sri Lanka and the ethinic issue was an internal matter of this country.

Inviting critics to join him in inspecting whether there was administration in the northern and eastern regions, Mr Athulathmudali said that trains operated beyond Jaffna to Kanksanthurai on Friday. Even in Jaffna today there were antiterrorist reactions from the people.

Indian Role as Drug Trafficking Center Cited

BK141135 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] India is emerging as the biggest drug trafficking center in the Southwest Asian drug network. Drug experts in the United States say that India's geographic position between two major producing zones, the golden crescent involving Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan and the Golden Triangle of Thailand, Laos, and Burma was a major factor contributing to India's new role. Drug enforcement programs in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Thailand have played a significant role in pushing India to the fore. India is now a major supply line to the U.S. drug market. At present organizational control over the drug business in India is still in the hands of Southeast Asians or Pakistanis. However, drug experts believe that the tendency will be for Indians themselves to become more involved, setting up family networks in turning to organized crime.

Khomeyni Addresses Prisoner Review Committee
LD171230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The committee for reviewing the cases of prisoners and granting amnesty to them, consisting of Messrs Abtahi, Karimi, Mohammadi-e Gilani, and Qazi, were received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They presented to the imam of the ummah a report on the activities and programs of this committee.

In this meeting, Imam Khomeyni, the hope of the deprived of the world, made the following remarks:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Never has it occurred to me, nor will it ever, that you, God forbid, might act in a way which is even the slightest bit inappropriate. I am fond of you and I know all of you and I approve of you all. But the matter which I should point out to you is that we must observe caution in general; both you and I. None of us wants to see a single innocent person remain in prison; but this should not mean that those who have committed sins should not be punished for their actions. You saw what the hypocrites did at the University of Tehran. Everyone says that those who have killed people should be punished. Of course, whenever I say anything, every person interprets it as it suits them. People can say whatever they want, you must continue with your work. I have known you since the closing years of my time as a seminary student, and I have confidence in you. You are providing a great service; try to see that no one remains in prison without a good reason. May God grant you approval and success.

Velayati Departs for Syria, Libya, Algeria
LD161233 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] According to our correspondent, at midday today, Foreign Minister Velayati left for Syria, Libya, and Algeria at the head of a high-ranking political delegation. On departing from Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, the foreign minister and his accompanying delegation were seen off by the ambassadors of Syria, Libya, and Algeria. Before leaving Tehran, Mr Velayati was interviewed by our correspondent, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] On your trip to Syria, Libya, and Algeria, what will be the framework of your talks with the officials of those countries?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following the Iraqi violation of the United Nations 12 June 1984 agreement and the Iraqi bombing and missile attacks on Iranian cities and civilian areas, we were forced to retaliate; and despite (?our) wishes, we did what Iraq has been doing for over 4 years. The method of approach of our forces demonstrated [words indistinct] and taught Iraq the necessary lessons both on the battlefronts, where our warriors, through their remarkable victories, have advanced with the Iraqi regime, despite its threats during the early days of the war, conceding this very important advance by our forces; and secondly, by hitting sensitive vital centers in Iraq with missile and planes.

In such a phase, it is necessary to inform various countries of the world, international organizations, our neighbors and particularly our close and friendly countries on the latest developments of the war; and for this reason, several deputies of the Foreign Ministry began their trips to different countries yesterday and now I am accompanying several of our colleagues to these three countries in order to (?inform them) that Iraq has used missiles (?donated by international sources) to commit crimes which cannot be justified by any human logic. It has hit civilian areas and once again it has started the use of chemical weapons.

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati. Apparently the delegations which left for several countries yesterday were carrying messages from President Khamene'i. Are you also taking such messages to the countries that you are visiting?

[Velayati] I am delivering some messages from his excellency the president and these messages explain to the leaders of the three countries the situation of the region, the developments of the war, and recent events. [end recording]

Officials Take Messages to UAE, Turkey
GF160606 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Mr Javad Mansuri, the cultural deputy of our country's Foreign Ministry who is carrying a message from the president and the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Kenan Evren and Turgut Ozal, the president and prime minister of Turkey respectively, arrived in Ankara yesterday afternoon.

Similarly Mr 'Ali 'Arab, the deputy of the Foreign Ministry of our country, arrived in Abu Dhabi with a message from Mr Khamene'i to Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al-Nuhayyan, head of the UAE.

These messages from the Islamic Republic of Iran pertain to the imposed war, Iraqi acts of aggression, the decision to retaliate despite our reluctance to do so in an effort to halt Iraqi aggression, and the condition of Iranian POW's in Iraq. It may be recalled that similar messages have been dispatched to the heads of Pakistan, India, Japan, PRC, GDR, and the UN secretary general.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Majlis on War
LD161429 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] During this morning's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker, said in a speech:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The incident which took place in Tehran University during the Friday prayers ceremonies yesterday constituted one of human history's rare and matchless scenes

and one should pause and ponder this issue for a while and work it out. In my opinion, after the era of the dawn of Islam, if we were to find a meaning for the holy Koranic verse: "And those to whom the people said: 'The people have gathered an army against you' and frightened them, but instead their faith multiplied, saying: 'God is sufficient for us and he is the best disposer of affairs!' " we would not find a clearer application than what our nation demonstrated in Tehran University yesterday. It is a pity that world observers' hearts are sick and their eyes are blind — envy has blinded them — and, therefore, theycannot comprehend the beauties of such scenes; and even if they were to do so their envy would not permit them to reflect these good scenes and so they reflect them differently. In all fairness please pay attention how much this story, this incident can be instructive. A nation is seriously threatened by missiles and bombs, and at that very moment the sound of a danger siren and the thunder of anti-aircraft guns being fired were deafening Tehran; these could be heard from the rostrum by all the people; and the Friday prayers film which I saw last night indeed raises man to divine heights. The thunder of the anti-aircraft guns, together with the voice of the Friday imam and the reverberation of the prayers of the Friday imam were heard by the people; and in these moments, under this rocking thunder which was filling the air, the people were standing like mountains and saw nothing except God. Both the fortitude of the president of the republic and the Friday imam in person must be a cause for wonder to the world — such abnormal circumstances, the ordinary, normal order would be that all should go to the underground shelters. But instead, in the open air, in the spirit of worship, with his voice warmly reverberating, he read the Koran and prayed with the people; and the people, in return, continued their prayers with calm and self-assurance while their hands were turned into clenched fists and their chanting of God is great, and the slogan: We Have Come for Martyrdom, dominated the thunder of the antiaircraft guns.

Those who attempt to frighten our people by such things should learn a great many lessons from that scene. Only after 7 or 8 days of serious raining down of missiles — well, no one could deny this — rolling our cities in blood and dust in that manner, repeatedly pounding Tabriz, Esfahan, other cities, Bakhtaran, and others, this nation, these people observed last week's Friday prayers more auspiciously than on all other weeks. These epics by the population of Tabriz, Esfahan, Bakhtaran which we saw during the film reportage indeed bring ecstasy to man. I do not know what conclusions these international observers are reaching. Can they now understand that one should not confront this nation with the language of bullying and threats? Will they understand that in this battlefield on which the Islamic revolution is fighting and in this new war which it has begun against arrogance there is no other alternative except submitting to righteousness? When the people are like this, and you keep saying: We will strike with missiles, or aircraft, or the United States is bringing along its fleet, what effect can this produce in the people? For us who have known this people closely for 6 or 7 years and see them daily on the arena this latest scene was both constructive and instructive. God Almighty has brought this people divine blessings. May God Almighty safeguard this people. Only the elite of these people are fighting on the fronts. Only a selected few of these people whom we saw have gone to the fronts. So let Iraq issue communiques and let the United States do what it likes.

On the other hand, the other instructive point in this course of events is the probiem of the Monafeqin [hypocrities] counterrevolution and other unfortunates of their ilk. You can indeed see the disparity between their claims and actions. This is the depth of hypocrisy and is the manifestation of total hypocrisy. Under the pretext of fighting imperialism and serving the people they gather the children of the people around them; and their service is this: that during the Friday prayers, at a time when the people are linking their hearts with God and raising their hands in prayer, they attack the people with a bomb. And the depth of the crime is that they coordinate their efforts with those Saddamists at that moment when their aircraft were about to come into Tehran's airspace so that they could claim that the explosion was connected with them. These people are so stupid and unfortunate and yet they deceive our children, our innocent little ones with their slogans and stratagems. Here we cannot find a dirtier example of a deceiving hypocrite in history.

The other issue which we have is that with such noise and din they are attempting to wipe out the terror from the hearts of the criminals and reacton in the region as a result of seeing Iran's missile might. As a result of the amazing incident of the explosion of our missile in the heart of Baghdad and the demolition of the myth of the invincibility and safety of the surroundings of Baghdad, which has shaken all their hearts, they now wish to use such tricks in order to hearten these reactionaries once again. So we were forced once again to teach them another lesson so that they will believe us. So today they will believe us. So today they will see whether it was a missile or an explosion caused by saboteurs in Baghdad, as they claim.

The amazing, epic-making situation of our combatant forces east of the Tigris, when all military observers keep saying that the area boasts one of the greatest defensive dykes constructed in the history of wars — crossing 30 kilometers of water and marshes and even stronger than the Bar-Lev line, and the occupation of strong positions east of the Tigris — these things are the achievements of persons who are armed with the might of faith and who are genuinely linked with God Almighty. Now that Iraq has forced them to join our nation and stress their presence in this crisis of striking at cities we hope that our combatants on the fronts will be crowned with success and will teach these people a new lesson.

In conclusion, I would like to declare that henceforth we will no longer accept it when Saddam says: Abadan, Khorramshahr constitute a war zone, and then be able to shell them. Shelling Abadan and Khorramshahr today will be answered with shelling Basra; the launch of missiles or bombs against any of our cities would be answered by striking Baghdad with missiles. Strikes against shipping in the Persian Gulf would also be answered either with a missile or bomb attack on Basra. All these things are interdependent. And the use of chemical weapons on the battlefield will be answered with something even worse, which Saddam will receive in retaliation. And peace and God's mercy and benedictions be upon you! [chanting] [end recording]

15 Mar Reportage on Badr Operation, War Results

1,300 Killed, 700 Captured

LD151722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] According to the report from khatam ol-Anbiya HQ, the pride-giving operations of the combatants of Islam, called Badr, which has began under the code-name Ya Fatemat ol-Zahra is continuing with the infliction of heavy blows on the defeated body of the Armed Forces of Iraq.

Continuing these operations, the combatants of Islam, have succeeded in liberating the central command post of Hur, situated in the south of Al-'Amarah, in the Hur al-'Azim region, including the (Toraqeh) post and posts falling under the command of Hur post, and have brought them under their full control. Following the liberation of this region which is situated to the east of the Tigris, more Iraqi troops have been killed or captured by Islam's forces. Thus, the number of enemy troops that have been killed or injured since the start of Badr operations totals more than 1,300. Also, up to now, more than 700 officers and soldiers of Iraq who have been captured by the brave fighters of Islam, have been transferred to the back of the battlefronts.

According to this report, from the start of the Badr operations until now, more than 100 tanks, and personnel carriers and a large number of enemy vehicles have been set on fire and destroyed. In these operations too, in addition to the destruction of battalions No 1, 2, and 3 from the 429th Brigade of the defeated army of Iraq, some more enemy armored motorized and infantry units were also destroyed.

Joint Staff Report

LD151721 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Our ground to air defense units shot down an Iraqi MIG-23 in the operational theater east of the Tigris river at 1257 today. Also today, several fighter-bombers of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran bombed military installations of Al-Faw port in Iraq.

According to a report of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 1340 today several fighter-bomber planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran bombed military installations of Iraq's Al-Faw port and returned safely to their bases. According to this report, artillery units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards shelled the cities of Basra, Shnuwdari, Halabjah, Sayyid Sadiq, Khurmal, and the Valiyabah region of Iraq yesterday and today and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

Thanks to the tactics of the fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the fire of our ground to air defense units today, enemy air intrusions over 13 cities of our country were respulsed in time. At 1030, 1300, and 1315 today, several Iraqi aircraft violated the airspace of the cities of Bostan, Hamadan, and Arak, but they were intercepted by the air defense fire of our units and dropped their bombs on the areas around these cities while escaping. Also, at 0910 today, the forces of Islam downed an enemy helicopter on Majnun island.

At 1420 yesterday, an enemy plane was downed in the southern sector, thanks to the fire of our ground to air defense units.

Yesterday, our forces on the southern fronts set an enemy helicopter on fire, destroyed two Iraqi trucks carrying troops, and killed or wounded about 40 of the aggressors.

Air Attack on Tehran

LD151748 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — Two Iraqi aircraft attempted to attack residential areas in Tehran Friday night.

The attempt was foiled under intense anti-aircraft fire at 7:50 pm (16:20 GMT), but on their way back, the Iraqi planes broke the sound barrier over the capital at high altitudes.

Iraq Uses Chemical Weapons

LD151743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The Iraqi regime, once again, proved its helplessness in facing the warriors of Islam by repeating its war crimes by using chemical weapons in the operational sector east of the Tigris. According to IRNA, during recent operations of the forces of Islam, which began last Monday night [11 march] the aggressive armed forces of Saddam have used chemical weapons against the forces of Islam in five different regions by this morning, that is, Friday. But, according to remarks by chemical substances experts, fortunately the combatants of Islam in the east of Tigris operational sector are equipped with antichemical weapon gear and have received necessary instructions to prevent toxication; and the Iraqi regime will not be able to stop activities of the forces of Islam by resorting to this method.

Commentary on Baghdad Missile Strikes

GF151426 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] What can the Iraqi rulers say now that our Islamic forces have stretched their powerful arms into Baghdad and struck the Al-Rafidayn Bank which is the most important economic establishment in Iraq? Will they play again the symphony of an explosion which, in the case of the Kirkuk oil installations, was not even believed by their information media which resigned itself to admitting that a missile had destroyed the installations? Protected in their palaces in Baghdad, what will Saddam and his supporters do? What will they do after they have themselves ascertained the truth of the warnings given by the Islamic Republic through witnessing the war blows near their bedchambers and amusement halls?

What will Saddam do after the chair of his rule and the crown of his arrogance have become real targets for long-range missiles, and he has become the target of tons of explosives? Will he still reiterate the mockery of capability and that he is the hero of Al-Qadisiyah and the knight of the Arab nation? Or will he resign to reality and pack his bags for a secure place as do all unsuccessful rulers? Where is this secure place in which Saddam can find security? There is not a bit of Iraqi soil secure for Saddam and his supporters. The people's ghost will chase him away wherever he goes. Saddam himself knows this, as he has prepared everything for the day of defeat which is gradually approaching.

Saddam and his reckless clique, who are thirsty for the blood of innocent people, refused to respond to the UN secretary general's call. They decided to continue their aggression against Islamic towns. As a result, the Islamic forces were forced to retaliate. The response was stronger than Saddam and his aides could have imagined. It came in an intense manner and clear language carrying a renewed assurance for the Muslim people in Iraq. They know that they are not the targets of our missiles because the Iraqi sons can leave their towns for holy towns which have been named in the communiques of the Islamic forces.

We must advise those who have tied their fate to that of the regime and who will meet the same fate: They must, from today, choose one of two things: They must either join the Iraqi public and express solidarity with this struggling people in its holy struggle against the ruling band, or be driven behind the bandwagon of the ruling regime in Baghdad which is accelerating toward falling into an abyss.

Iraqi Muslims Capture Ba'th HQ

LD151911 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries, in the course of a successful attack, recently captured the security headquarters of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime in the region of (Zaviqah), and captured 11 security officials of this regime. Reports reaching the Central News Unit also state that the headquarters of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime in the town of (Thawb) was attacked by the Muslim revolutionaries, in the course of which one of the security officials of the Iraqi regime was killed and two others were wounded. This report also states that the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries, during one attack on the Shaykhan al-Quds, destroyed a vehicle of the security forces of the Iraqi regime, and took as booty two other vehicles and some weapons.

Communique Threatens 'Fatal' Retaliation

LD151955 Tehran IRNA in English 1938 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — The Islamic Republic warned it would carry out "fatal" retaliatory attacks following Friday's Iraqi raids and shelling on Iranian residential areas, and again called on Iraqis to leave for safe holy cities.

"This criminal regime has not yet learned a lesson from the decisive actions of the Islamic combatants and has not woken up to face the power and capability of the Islamic forces in their missile, artillery and aerial attacks, and is still continuing its threats against Iranian residential areas," the Khatam ol-Anbiya HQs said in a statement Friday night.

The communique said the Iraqi Air Force planes has attacked villages near Arak and Hamadan today.

"The army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic revolution's Guards Corps, as they have repeatedly declared and practically shown in the face of repeated aggressions of the Iraqi regime in the past, they would give such a fatal reply to this criminal regime that would shatter the whole of the Zionist regime in Baghdad."

It said the Iraqi people who have not yet evacuated their cities, to take refuge in the four holy cities of Karbala, Al-Najaf, Al-Kazimiyah and Samarra.

Meanwhile, Iranian anti-aircraft fire thwarted attempted attacks by Iraqi planes on the cities of Bushehr twice Thursday night, and on the cities of Bakhtaran and Ilam during Friday prayers.

Iraqi planes also twice violated the air space of Khorramabad Thursday night, Borujerd twice on Friday afternoon, and Qazvin, Zanjan and Hamadan Friday night.

In the war fronts, IRNA correspondent in the Badr operational region reported the Islamic forces took up positions on the shores of the Tigris today and had destroyed 15 Iraqi tanks west of the river.

Enemy supply lines in the region have been interrupted since Wednesday and are under constant and coordinated attacks by Iranian Air Force bombers and artillery.

The number of captive Iraqi troops transferred behind the battle lines has reached 750, including unit commanders and other high-ranking officers.

A Basij combatant said the coordination between the back and front line forces "is unprecedented."

Need for Black-Out

LD152016 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1927 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Dear listeners, in view of the instructions of the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we draw your attention to some important points. You must remember during a red alert situation, while preserving calm, observe security matters such as complete black-out. Especially drivers who are driving at night on roads or highways must, after stopping their cars, put out their car lights. Meanwhile, in order to keep up with the situation you can, by keeping your radio on, be informed of the announcement of normal conditions.

Iraq Concerned About Defections

LD152054 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — Iraqi troops captured during recent fighting in the southern front say Iran's missile attack in the heart of Baghdad has demoralised Iraqi soldiers.

They say they have been unwillingly involved in an unjust war with the combatants of Islam, to the extent that the wave of defection is rapidly spreading in the army.

The Iraqi regime, in order to divert public attention, hurriedly denied the missile attack against the Rafidayn Bank headquarters and claimed the building was destroyed in an internal bomb explosion.

Also the regime staged a propaganda trick Thursday night that indicated its grave concern over mass defections among its troops.

In a televised program, an artist, acting as an Iraqi POW, was being dragged on the ground by a jeep, and other actors playing the role of Iraqi troops, were shooting at the jeep to free him.

The program claimed it was a real scene, adding that the same fate awaited any Iraqi soldier who intended to surrender to the Islamic combatants.

What the designers of such a fabricated scene forgot was the fact that any simple viewer would ask how the film was shot so easily and carefully in the war fronts.

There are some 50,000 Iraqi POW's in Iran, among whom are many who have been shown on Iranian TV at the time of their surrender, chanting slogans such as 'Death to Saddam'.

The number of Iraqi POW's in Iran is itself indicative of the fact that Islam teaches its adherents to be merciful to those under its care.

16 Mar Reportage on Badr Offensive, War Results

Baghdad Hit With Missile

LD160441 Tehran IRNA in English 0440 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Bagdad was attacked by an Iranian ground-to-ground missile early this morning.

The Iraqi capital was hit in retaliation for Friday's attacks on Iranian cities, the Khatam Ol-Anbiya HQs said in a communique.

The HQs had warned last night it would retaliate Iraqi attacks on villages near Hamadan and Arak.

"The Iranian Armed Forces would give such a fatal reply to this criminal regime that would shatter the whole of the Zionist regime in Baghdad," it had warned.

Iran's far range ground-to-ground missile attack, targetting the heart of the Iraqi capital city Saturday morning, once again rocked Baghdad and destroyed a large building in which heavy casualties and damages inflicted.

In a dispatch from Baghdad, REUTERS reported that a powerful explosion rocked Iraqi capital city of Baghdad early today. "There is nothing left but a column of smoke," REUTERS added quoting an eyewitness who could see the destruction from a building on the other side of the river.

The destruction, of which no details was available by 08:00 a.m. local time (04:30 GMT), was to the extent that could be heard and seen in all Baghdad.

Military officials said in Tehran Saturday morning that Iran's ground-to-ground missile attack was in retaliation for the continuation of Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities and residential areas.

Last week Iran launched missile attacks against a cement factory in Kirkuk and the multi-storey Rafidayn Bank headquarters in Baghdad in order to make the Iraqi regime to agree with the U.N. secretary general's proposal for the cessation of attacks on civilian areas.

Iran announced its agreement with the U.N. secretary general's call, which was expected to be put into practice by midnight GMT last Tuesday, but Baghdad failed to give a response in this respect.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, after a day of interruption, and with the continuation of Iraqi regime's attacks, resumed its attacks against Iraqi civilian areas. In the early stages, Iran targetted strategic, economic and administrative installations.

Saturday morning ground-to-ground missile attack against Iraq is Iran's third attack of this kind.

'Strategic' Iraqi Bridge Destroyed

LD160628 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] East Tigris, Badr Operational Region, March 16, IRNA — A strategic bridge on the Tigris was destroyed by the Islamic forces early Saturday.

The Jobair bridge was used for supplies destined for the Iraqi forces east of the Tigris, where the Islamic combatants have been carrying out their Badr operation.

With the destruction of the bridge, Iraqi supplies have been seriously interrupted and signs of disintegration are already evident among the enemy forces in the area.

On Friday, Islamic forces passed various barriers, including five rows of barbed wire in the Hur al-'Azim marsh land, to capture the Hur central command post inside Iraq.

IRNA correspondents who visited the center said another 25 enemy tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed in the Badr operational region during Friday.

This brought to more than 100 the total of tanks and personnel carriers destroyed in the region since the start of the operation five days ago.

The command center was difficult to capture because of five heavily equipped smaller posts surrounding it.

Some 80 Iraqi troops were taken captive from these posts and the center, including an operational commander who was captured as he sought to escape. The commander of the center and countless other enemy troops were killed or wounded.

Warning to Iraq

GF160720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0706 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement by the Khatam ol-Anbiya joint operational headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpt] O valiant Islamic nation! O combatant nation! As a result of the continuation of the crimes by the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime and the attacks on residential areas, the able forces of the Islamic Army, following a policy of retaliation, attacked the city of Baghdad, the center of government of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime, this morning.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran once more — as a warning to the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime — requests those persons who have not yet left their cities to leave Baghdad and other unsafe cities in Iraq as soon as possible and to go to the sacred cities of Karbala, Al-Najaf, al-Kazimiyah, and Samarra because the retaliatory operations by the Islamic forces will continue until the complete halt of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime's attacks on the residential areas of our country.

[Signed] khatam ol-Anbiya Joint Operational Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ahvaz Radio Report

GF160738 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 0727 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: Please pay attention to an item we have just received:

According to reports received from Khatam ol-Anbiya Joint Operational Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, last night the able combatants of Islam — continuing their victorious Badr operations which were begun under the holy codename of Ya Fatemat ol-Zahra, have destroyed 70 percent of two battalions of the 93th Brigade and the Ar-Rashid tank battalion of the 51st Brigade of the defeated Iraqi regime. Similarly the Iraqi popular army units have been shattered by the Islamic combatants and a large number of their personnel have been killed or wounded.

Further Ahvaz Report

GF160744 Ahvaz Domestic Service In Persian 0729 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Unschdeuled announcement]

[Text] According to reports received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya Joint Operational Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, last night the infidel-battling combatants of the forces of monotheism continued their victorious Badr oprations, codenamed Ya Fatemat ol-Zahra, east of the Tigris. They destroyed 20 enemy tanks and armored personnel carriers. In addition, a number of their vehicles were captured. The battle continues with the Islamic forces in complete control.

Fighters Bomb 2 Cities

LD160805 Tehran IRNA in English 0802 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran March 16, IRNA — A number of Iran's fighter planes bombed the Iraqi cities of 'Aqrah, Dianah as well as a number of other points and inflicted heavy casualties and damaged economic and industrial installations in these cities.

The bombing took place three hours after Saturday morning Iranian ground-to-ground missile attack on central Baghdad.

The Jet fighters returned to their bases safely after successfully carrying out their mission.

Forces Clear Hur Region

LD160838 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] East Tigris Region, March 16, IRNA — The Iranian forces have cleared the Hur region, south of Al-'Amarah, located in Hur al-'Azim, from the Iraqi Ba'thist forces.

The Iranian forces in continuation of the "Badr" operations launched in East Tigris region last Monday, have taken full control of the Hur area.

In this operation a large number of Iraqi forces were either killed or wounded, and many others captured.

Iraqi Jets Bomb Tabriz

LD160849 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tabriz, East Azarbayjan pr. March 16, IRNA — The East Azarbayjan city of Tabriz was bombed and rocketed by Iraqi jets at 1030 local time (0700 GMT) Saturday. During the attack, three points in the city were hit by Iraqi rockets and bombs. Early reports as of 0800 GMT said there was no one killed and only a few people have been wounded and a number of houses destroyed.

Iraqi Jets Violate Zanjan, Khorramabad

LD160845 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — The Iraqi jet fighters Friday night violated airspace of various Iranian cities and in all instances they were chased away by the Iranian air defence and only in two cases they hit outskirts of the cities.

The cities included the West Azarbayjan capital of Urumiyeh, and Cilan-e Gharb, Sar Pol-e Zahab, Islamabad-e Gharb, Bakhtaran, all in Bakhtaran province.

The Iraqi warplanes intruded the airspace of Zanjan in Zanjan province, and Khorramabad, in Lorestan Province, which were chased away by the Iranian anti-aircraft units stationed in the area. However, the planes on their way back dropped rockets in outskirts of these two cities but there has been no casualties.

Announcement on Iraqi Losses

LD160823 Tehran IRNA in English 0818 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Iranian forces destroyed 20 more Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers, bringing the total to 120 since the start of Badr offensive last Monday, Khatam ol-Anbiya Joint Operational Headquarters announced Saturday.

So far, the announcement added, 750 Iraqi forces have been captured by the Islamic Combatants while a large number of enemy vehicles have been seized by Iran.

An earlier report said that on Friday night Iranian forces inflicted 70 percent damages on two battalions of Iraq's 93rd Brigade and Al-Rashid tank battalion of the 51st brigade.

Meanwhile, Iranian forces destroyed a number of units of the Iraqi Jaysh al-Sha'b forces and killed or wounded a great number of them.

700 More Iraqis Killed

LD160926 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Some 700 more Iraqi troops were killed or wounded by the Islamic combatants in the continuation of the "Badr" offensive, surpassing the total 2,000 since the beginning of the offensive last Monday.

Iranian forces have established full control over the operational theater and are dealing heavy blows on the enemy.

Meanwhile, a report from Bakhtaran, in west Iran, said Saturday that during the preceding 24 hours, Iranian artillery and mortar fire halted the operations of the Iraqi engineering units, destroying five observation posts and a vehicle, also killing or wounding 23 enemy forces.

During the same period in one of the western fronts, a patrol group of Iranian forces attacked and set on fire three Iraqi personnel carriers, killing and wounding their passengers.

Iraqi Planes Attack Rasht

LD161123 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Pr., March 16, IRNA — Iraqi planes fired rockets on Rasht, 323 km north of Tehran on the Caspian coast, at 12:45 (09:15 GMT) Saturday.

The rockets hit the Golshahr area of the city but there has been no casualty report so far.

POW's on Iraqi 'low' Morale

LD161113 Tehran IRNA in English 1101 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Iranian forces in the continuation of their victorious "Badr" Operation, have liberated the Hur region, and also took over the border command post of Hur and other posts under its command, said the latest communique of the Khatam ol-Anbiya Joint Operational Headquarters, Saturday.

In the Badr Operation, launched in East Tigris last Monday, Iranian forces have killed or wounded some 2,100 of the Iraqi troops and have so far taken more than 800 Iraqi officers and military personnel as captives, added the communique.

Meanwhile, the Iranian forces, in addition to the Hur area, south of al-'Amarah, have also liberated the two villages of Majarrah, Lahuk east of the Tigris River.

According to the communique, fierce battle continues inside the Iraqi territory with the total superiority of the Iranian forces.

Reports from the area indicate that Iranian forces have captured a group of 11 Iraqi officers who had hidden in the marshes.

An Iraqi soldier, Mazen Nejat Abdul Hussein [name as received], captured in the operation, said that in the latest operation a large number of Iraqi troops have either been killed, wounded or taken captive. "The bunkers are filled with the corpse of the Iraqi forces," he added. Due to heavy fire of the Iranian forces, the Iraqi forces were taken by surprise and had no time to escape.

Another Iraqi officer, Kazem Khalil Salman of the 2nd Battallion of the 429th Brigade, said that his battalion was surrounded by the Iranian forces in a surprise attack and their connection with rear was cut off. He described the morale of the Iraqi forces as extremely low.

He further told IRNA that the Iraqi commanders give firing orders from far behind the battlefield and they are among the first ones to escape when Iranian forces attack.

Another POW, Corporal Alvan, of the 2nd Battalion of the 93rd Brigade said that Iraqi people were fed-up with the dictatorial regime in Iraq and are tired of the war.

Bushehr on Iranian Callup

GF161200 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1138 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpt] O heroic people of Bushehr Province! The victorious Badr operations which have taken place with the efforts of the able and strong Islamic combatants and the divine blessings and succor continue toward predetermined targets deep into Iraq. The strong forces of the army of Islam, continuing their relentless battle in the operational area in order to penetrate Iraq, have shattered the strongholds of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi forces and are forging ahead so that with divine assistance, they can inflict a decisive blow on the decrepit Saddamist army. Our forces also want to give a teethshattering response to the missile and chemical attacks and other aggressive acts of the mercenary Ba'thists and to teach such a lession to the criminals of the world so that they may never undertake aggression again on Muslim territory.

In this connection, the Jerusalem headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Bushehr Province has issued a communique asking all forces participating in the Labbeyk ya Khomeyni scheme and those who have already been to the fronts and have received training to report as soon as possible in order to join the infidel-battling victors of Islam on the operational fronts. The Karbala reserve battalion, the mobilization force in Bushehr and in the districts are also to go to the mobilization center. With the assistance of God, victory is at hand!

Further Warning to Iraq

LD161222 Tehran IRNA in English 1216 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — The Islamic Republic Saturday warned Iraq if it continued attacks on residential areas, used chemical weapons or hit commercial ships in the Persian Gulf, Iranian missiles will hit the heart of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities.

A war information HQs statement also stressed that Iran's warning is serious and called on the Iraqi people to evacuate all cities except for the religious cities of Karbala, Al-Najaf, Samarra and Al-Kazimiyah. The Iraqi regime, taking advantage of the patience of the Iranian forces in attacking residential areas, has resorted to all sorts of crimes by launching missile, aerial and artillery attacks on Iranian cities as well as deploying internationally-denounced chemical weapons, it added. It said Iran was inevitably forced to embark on retaliatory measures and hit the heart of Baghdad in order to give a lesson to Iraq to halt its crimes.

Basra Shelling Continues

LD161221 Tehran IRNA in English 1214 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Iranian forces continued shelling the port of Basra Saturday in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on residential areas in Iran.

Iran's long-range artillery, targetting urban facilities and economic installations in the war-stricken Basra, inflicted heavy casualties and damages.

In a report, Iraq's state news agency confirmed the shelling of Basra and the destruction of a number of buildings in the city.

Casualties in 16 Mar Attacks

LD161544 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Heavy civilian casualties were inflicted in attacks carried out by Iraqi warplanes against six Iranian cities saturday.

Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Pr., 10:30 am (07:00 GMT): One or more rockets were fired by Iraqi aircraft, martyring three and wounding 29 others. Three of the injured have been hospitalised.

Ilam, Ilam Pr., 1:00 pm(09:30 GMT): One mirage and seven Iraqi MIGs bombed 24 points of the city. So far the bodies of 9 martyrs have been recovered and 66 injured people have been taken to hospitals. It was the 31st attack on Ilam since the start of the war.

Karand-e Gharb, Bakhtaran Pr., 1:10 pm(09:40 GMT): Enemy planes heavily bombed the city. So far 53 are known to have been martyred and scores of others have been hospitalised. it was the first Iraqi attack on this city ever.

Rasht, Gilan Pr., 1:45 pm(10:15 GMT): There were no casualties and damage was only done to one house and two storage sheds from two rockets fired by Iraqi planes. Three rockets failed to explode.

Sanandaj, Kurdestan Pr., 3:00 pm(11:30 GMT): Five sections of the city were bombed by Iraqi planes, martyring six and injuring about 100 others.

Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Pr., 5:03(13:33 GMT) Iraqi planes fired four rockets, three of which hit the city outskirts. One person was injured.

Enemy warplanes also violated the air space of Isfahan, Zanjan today and Qazvin on Friday. One rocket was fired during the raid on Isfahan, but it hit an area in the surrounding mountains.

Iraqi Cities Shelled

LD161732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] According to the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the western battlefronts the combatants of Islam, by smashing every patrol movements of the enemy and by repelling the activities of the Iraqi force's helicopters in the Kani Sakht area, brought under their heavy artillery fire the positions of the infantry and armored unit's of the Iraqi forces, inflicting extensive losses in material and casualties on the Saddamists.

On the northwestern battlefronts, our forces, by executing fire

on the positions and fortifications of the enemy in the operational sectors of Hajj 'Umran, Sardasht and Marivan, halted the fire, engineering, and logistic activities of the Iraqi forces, and in every region inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy.

At 1958 last night, an enemy aircraft attempting to intrude into Tehran's airspace was faced with the fire of our air defense units and fled. On the basis of the joint Staff report, the Iraqi regime also bombed several of our cities as a consequence of which some of our dear compatriots were martyred and injured.

During the past 24 hours, the urban and military installations of the cities of Basra, (Sadra), Khanaqin, Zurbatiyah, Mandali, Khurmal, Sayyid Sadiq, Shanadari, and Halabjah in Iraq, were brought under the heavy artillery fire of units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic republic of Iran and heavy losses and casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

Iraqis Bomb Saqqez

LD161737 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Saqqez, Kordestan Pr., March, 16, IRNA — Iraqi planes bombed nine residential areas in the Kurdish town of Saqqez, martyring 30 and wounding 90 others, according to latest reports.

The raid took place at 3:00 PM (11:30 GMT).

Khandaq Logistics Road Seized

LD161801 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Islamic Combatants of Iran took control of the logistics road of Khandaq in East Tigris and captured the enemy's command centre in the region today, according to a Joint Army-IRGC statement.

Meanwhile, the dispersed Iraqi forces attempted to regroup and counterattack the positions of Islamic combatants in Badr operational theatre Saturday afternoon but were forced to retreat sustaining more than 1,000 casualties and the loss of over 39 tanks and personnel carriers including 20 T-72 tanks.

Announcing this the 8th communique of the Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters said today that this brings Iraqi casualties to over 3,100 and enemy destroyed tanks and personnel carriers to more than 164. Another 200 Iraqis were captured bringing the number of Iraqi captives transferred behind the fronts during the "Operation Badr" to 1019.

The Islamic combatants also set ablaze and demolished a great number of enemy vehicles and military equipment.

The Badr offensive was launched on Monday night at 11:00 hours local time (7:30 gmt).

Joint Staff Communique 2044

LD161855 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces announced in its 2044 communique today that military and economic installations in the Iraqi cities of Basra, Sadra, Khanaqin, Zurbatiyah, Mandali, Khurmal, Sayyid Sadiq, Shani-Dari and Halabjah were under the heavy artillery fire of Islamic combatants during the past 24 hours in which the enemy sustained heavy casualties.

The Iraqis continued bombardment of and aerial attacks on Iranian cities and residential areas during the preceding 24 hours. A number of Iraqi air aggressions were foiled by the Iranian Air Force jet fighters and antiaircraft defence units. However, some Iranian cities were also bombarded and a significant number of innocent civilians were martyred or wounded during the said period, the communique added.

An Iraqi aircraft intended to violate the air space of Tehran at 19:57 hours local time (16:27 hours gmt) Friday but was forced to flee by heavy Iranian antiaircraft fire.

In the southern fronts, exchange of sporadic fire continued being more intense in Shahr Anbar, Majnun islands and north of Zayd.

Iraqi movements were checked by the fire of gendarmerie forces in Arvand river fronts upon the enemy positions and fortifications.

In the western fronts, the Islamic combatants squashed all patrol activities of the enemy forces and thwarted Iraqi helicopter activities in Kani Shaykh. The Iraqi infantry and armoured positions were zeroed in on by heavy artillery fire of Islamic combatants as a result of which considerable damages and casualties were inflicted upon the enemy.

In the northwestern fronts Iraqi positions and fortifications in Sardasht, Marivan and Haj 'Umran came under the fire of Iranian defenders and the engineering and logistic activities of Iraqi forces were halted while the enemy sustained some casualties and losses in each region.

Kashan Hit

LD162350 Tehran IRNA in English 2346 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 17, IRNA — A woman has been injured by an Iraqi aerial attack against the city of Kashan, 258 kms south of Tehran, early reports said. The attack was carried out by an Iraqi aircraft at 1:50 am Sunday (22:20 GMT Saturday).

It was the first time Kashan had been attacked by Iraq.

Meanwhile reports reaching here from Hamadan said an enemy plane dropped its bombs outside the city and no casualties or damages were caused.

The attack on Hamadan took place at 1:30 am Sunday (22:00 gmt Saturday).

17 Mar Reportage on Badr Operation, War Results

Headquarters Issues 9th Communique

LD170456 Tehran IRNA in English 0448 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, march 17, IRNA — Islamic combatants Saturday night inflicted 80 percent damage on two battalions of the 94th Infantry Brigade of Iraq, some 70 percent damage on two battalions of the 93rd brigade, while completely destroyed the 2nd battalion of the 65th Brigade and captured its commander.

The 9th communique of Khatam ol-Anbiya Joint Operational Headquarters announcing this Sunday morning, added that during this operation 1500 more Iraqi forces were killed or injured, surpassing the total 4600.

It added that meanwhile a large number of Iraqi ammunition was destroyed by the Islamic combatants.

Iraqi Air Force Attacks

GF170630 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] According to an IRNA report, an enemy plane at 0100 this morning flew over Tehran. It met the intense fire of the air defense system set up in various parts of the city and was forced to flee. As it did so it broke the sound barrier over Tehran. This plane flew very high and did dare not come lower because of the intense antiaircraft fire.

Similarly another Iraqi aggressor plane flew over Hamadan today but was forced to flee under heavy antiaircraft fire. While fleeing it released its rockets outside the city limits. No damage or loss of life occurred.

At 0150 this morning another Iraqi fighter hit a residential area in Kashan. Reports received indicate that the attack injured a woman.

Iraqi POW's Comment

GF170700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] A number of officers, NCO's and soldiers of the Iraqi Army captured by the Islamic forces during the Badr operation east of the Tigris River talked with our correspondent and described their capture.

In this connection our correspondent at the Khatam ol-Anbiya Joint Operational Headquarters sent us the following report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] The battalion commander of the Iraqi Special Forces, (Jabbar Francis Sabbanah), who was commander of two battalions of the 65th brigade and who has been captured by the Islamic forces east of Tigris River, described his capture. He said that when he arrived to support the 93d Infantry Brigade in the battle raging east of the Tigris River, he saw the Iraqi forces fleeing and saw many tanks and trucks burning. His battalion was also surrounded by Iranian forces and suffered 120 casualties. He was captured with all other members of the brigade. Captain (Zia Isla'il Khalil), Captain (Taha Mujmer Kazem), and Second Lieutenant (Tasnir Jabbar Kazem) were also captured east of the Tigris. They expressed their approval of the treatment given to them by the Islamic forces and were happy that they had been captured by the strong Muslim forces.

A number of Iraqi POW's who surrendered to the Islamic forces during the victorious Badr operations east of the Tigris River also spoke to us. These POW's requested that their names must not be disclosed as they feared retaliation against their families by the security forces of the Ba'thist regime. They spoke about the low morale of the disorganised Iraqi forces on the battlefields. They said that the helpless Iraqi regime has, in order to find soldiers for the fronts, started conscription of young men, teenagers, and old men. They are subjected to mass executions for desertions. One of the captured POW's saw the execution of a group of deserting Iraqi soldiers and said that a few days before the beginning of operations by the Iraqi forces, 40 Iraqi soldiers, who had deserted because of their fear of battle, were arrested and executed immediately without any trial. They were shot in the open so as to prevent others from deserting and not fighting the Islamic forces.

All the POW's were happy over the treatment given to them by the Islamic forces. Contrary to Iraqi propaganda regarding Iranian treatment of POW's, they found that the moment they were captured by Iranian forces there was friendly atmosphere.

First Lieutenant (Mohammad Abdullah Ghaleb), an (?officer) of the 1st battalion of the 94th brigade from Basra, was captured on the first day of the operations by the enemy-breaking Islamic forces. He said the artillery fire of the Islamic Republican forces on military and economic centers in Basra was very intense and so far several strategic, sensitive military centers in Basra, including the air force base at (Shahbib) and the storage depot at (Jam'ir) have been destroyed in the shelling by the Iranian Air Force and artillery.

Another Iraqi POW who is a resident of Basra, added that two roads into Basra have been placed under strict control by the police and security forces in order to prevent refugees fleeing to the holy cities of Iraq. At present only foreign nationals are allowed to leave the city and other cities subjected to Iranian shelling.

Two more Iraqi POW soldiers who returned to their units 1 day before the beginning of the Badr operations spoke about the shelling on military and economic targets in Iraq. They said that in these cities emergency conditions have been declared and the people are at their wits end as a result of the mismanagement and foolishness of the Baghdad rulers. These two POW's also said: We think Iran was fully justified in its retaliatory action, in shelling Iraqi cities, and attacking them. [end recording]

IRNA Updates Casualties

LD170926 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 17, IRNA — The Iraqi Bombardment of Gilan-E Gharb, Bakhtaran Province Saturday night, has claimed lives of 6 civilians and has injured 30 others.

The air raid has caused massive destruction and a hospital has also received major damages.

Meanwhile death toll of the Iraqi bombardment of Sanandaj, Capital city of Kurdestan Province, Saturday night, as of early this morning is reported to be 11. Furthermore, in this attack some 100 civilians have been injured.

Dezful, Andimeshk Casualties

LD171127 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Following the Iraqi regime's aerial missile and bombing attacks of cities and residential areas of Iran, at 0718 and 0940 this morning, the defiant cities of Dezful and Andimeshk came under the missile attacks of the Iraqi regime, and as of 1200 more than 97 persons were injured and 13 persons were martyred in Dezful; and in Andimeshk, 94 persons were injured and 6 were martyred.

Reports received from Dezful tell of some young children being seem among the injured.

Communique No 10

GF171126 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Communique No 10 of the Khatam ol-Anbiya Joint Operational Headquarters of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. "Fight them so that there will be no sedition and all religion will be God's." [Koranic verse] Continuing the victorious Badr operations, the heroic fighters of Islam — during the fierce battles that raged last night and today — succeeded in wiping out several units of the enemy forces and killing a large number of the forces of the Zionist Iraqi regime.

In these battles the Islamic forces totally destroyed two enemy artillery battalions and destroyed 70 percent of the 3d battalion of the 65th brigade of the special forces, 50 percent of two battalions of the 703d infantry brigade, the 3d battalion of the 66th battalion of the special forces, and totally wiped out units of the Iraqi Popular Army. These battles resulted in the killing or wounding of more than 2,500 men of the Saddamist enemy. Thus the number of enemy killed since the beginning of the Badr operations has risen to more than 7,000. Also 1,080 captured Iraqi officers, NCO's, and soldiers have been transferred to the rear lines. Our Islamic forces also destroyed during these battles enemy military equipment and hardware.

[Signed] Khatam ol-Anbiya Joint Operational Headquarters of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

Fire on Piranshahr 'Silenced'

LD171459 Tehran IRNA in English 1456 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Pr. March 17, IRNA — Iraqi long-range artillery fire pounded the West Azarbayjan city of Piranshahr at 07:00 a.m. Sunday (03:30 GMT] while Iranian artillery units' return fire silenced enemy bombardment of the city.

There were no reports on possible casualties or damage on the city.

Iraq Bombs Kashan

GF171504 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] An aircraft of the Iraqi aggressors attacked Kashan district with rockets at 0130 [2200 GMT] this morning [16 March]. According to the Central News Unit, due to this rocket attack, one Kashan street, Shahid Motahheri Boulevard, and some shops and residential areas were damaged and three of our defenseless compatriots were injured. On the basis of this report, the ubiquitous people of Kashan hastened to the scene as soon as the attack took place and assisted the relief forces in (?rescuing) the victims.

Bakhtaran Casualties

LD171552 Tehran IRNA in English 1542 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Pr., March 17, IRNA — At least five people were martyred and 15 others were wounded here today as Iraqi planes bombarded three points in the city at 13:30 hours (10:00 GMT).

Immediately after the bombardment, relief teams were sent to the area for rescue operation.

Iraqi Counterattack 'Crushed'

LD171600 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Khatam ol-anbiya HQs, March 17, IRNA — An Iraqi counter-attack against Iranian positions in the Badr operational region was decisively crushed around noon Sunday.

The remaining enemy forces launched their attack with artillery support but were forced to escape the scene of battle in the face of staunch resistance from the Islamic forces.

A number of Iraqi forces were killed or wounded in the battle and some were captured after being besieged by Iranian combatants.

Fourteen enemy tanks along with a number of other armoured equipment and weaponry were demolished, and some quantities of light weapons were seized undamaged.

At present, the Islamic forces hold the initiative in the region.

IRNA correspondents who visited the Khandaq Road, said it was used by the Iraqis as a link between their forces in the west of Tigris to the middle of the Hur al-Azim marsh in the East.

The capture of the 10-kms road has cut this link completely.

The corpses of many Iraqis were scattered on the two sides of the road.

Five Iraqi captives who were being transferred from the area expressed surprise at the advance of the Islamic forces, saying that fortified positions, which "seemed impossible" to capture, had been erected around the road's command post and helicopter pad.

The Joint Staff reported in its newest communque that Iranian artillery units had opened fire on military and economic installations of nine Iraqi border cities in the past 24 hours, including Basra.

The attacks were in retaliation for earlier Iraqi missile and aerial attacks, it said.

In other fronts, the communque said casualties and losses were inflicted on the Iraqi forces throughout the warfronts.

Dezful Suffers Second Attack

LD171626 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan pr., March 17, IRNA — Iraq attacked residential areas in Dezful for the second time today at 13:30 (10:00 Gmt) as a result of which two people were martyred, one of them a child, and 25 others were injured. Some 15 residential units were also destroyed in this aerial attack.

The Ba'thist regime of Iraq missile attacked Dezful and Andimeshk at 7:30 (4:00 GMT) and 9:01 (5:29 GMT) this morning. A total of 19 people were martyred and 180 others were injured in the Iraqi missile attacks on the two cities. Tens of commercial and residential units were also destroyed and 2 mosques were levelled in these attacks.

Volunteers Called

GF171547 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The Qods headquarters of the Borazjan Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps [IRGC] has issued an announcement. They said the Karbala reserve battalion of Dashtestan, comprising the forces of the Labbeyk ya Khomeyni who have served on the fronts and are trained, and the brothers who have completed their military service will be sent to the war fronts between light and darkness this Tuesday.

For this purpose all those forces just mentioned are invited to join the reserve Karbala battalion by presenting themselves to the mobilization department of the IRGC of Borazjan so they can be registered.

The Qods Headquarters invited all forces of the Labbeyk ya Imam, who have served on the fronts and are trained and those who have completed their military service to go to the war fronts between right and wrong.

In the mentioned announcement, these persons were asked to register at the mobilization unit of the IRGC of Ganaveh so that they may be moved to the fronts on Tuesday.

Operations Center Announces Gains

LD171716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Unnumbered communique issued 17 March by joint operations center of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The combatants of Islam once again made a saga in the history of the imposed war. With its attacks on residential areas, hospitals and civilians, the Zionist enemy was trying to undermine the strong resolve of our ummah to continue along the path of the Islamic Revolotion; the Iranian forces responded to the bombing of our homes, places of assembly, hospitals and other city and communal installations in a crushing blow to the heart of enemy positions east of Tigris; thus Operation Badr dealt a hard slap on the faces of the Iraqi rulers.

Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters announces that so far, the following losses and casualties have been inflicted on the enemy:

1. Nearly 7,500 Iraqi personnel have been killed or wounded. The bodies of a considerable number of high-ranking officers of the Zionist forces of Iraq are lying on the battlefields.

2. The whole of the Hur al-'Azim area, south of 'Amarah, has been liberated; all the garrisons in that sector and the important Khandaq road have been captured by the forces of Islam.

3. More than 1,100 Iraqi soldiers and officers have been captured.

4. About 180 tanks and personnel carriers and several enemy military vehicles have been destroyed and large quantities of equipment and ammunition have been captured.

This was one of the necessary replies to the savage acts of the rulers of Baghdad in attacking residential areas. The combatants of Islam are prepared to deal stronger blows to the enemy at the appropriate time.

[Signed] Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters, the center of the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

Attacks on Iraqi Cities

LD171816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] According to the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during the past 24 hours, the artillery units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards corps retaliated against the missile attacks and air raids by the enemy on Iranian cities by opening fire on military and economic installations of the cities of Basra, Khanaqin, Zurbatiyah, Badra, Mandali, Seyyed Sadiq, halabjah, Khurmal and Shani-Dari in Iraq, inflicting considerable damage on these points. The mercenary and criminal regime of Iraq during the past few days has continued its air raids and missile attacks on the cities of the Islamic homeland as a result of which a number of our compatriots in Andimeshk, Dezful and Bakhtaran were martyred or wounded and a large number of houses and public places were demolished. Other air operations launched by the enemy today were foiled as a result of tactical moves of the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the timely fire of the antiaircraft defense units.

18 Mar Reportage on Badr Operation, War Results

Communique on Badr Results

GF180642 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Unnumbered communique by the Khatam ol-Anbiya Joint Operational Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpt] The heroic battle of the sons of Islam in the Badr operations is a befitting reply to the recent crimes of the Zionist Saddam regime for attacking residential areas. The Zionist Saddam regime, in its nature and in its philosophy, and due to its connections and relations with Israel in its military policy, and its political organization, is pursuing exactly the same tactics which have been practiced by the Zionists in southern Lebanon, on the West Bank of the Jordan River, in the Gaza strip, and in the Sinai desert. They are employing antihuman scare tactics like the bombardment of residential areas, destruction of people's homes, and the cruel massacre of others' sons, along with calculated propaganda aimed at deceiving the people, and backed by the imperialist propaganda organizations and the world's infidels.

However, today in southern Iran as in southern Lebanon, the Zionists and their protegees are receiving similar teeth-busting replies from the Islamic fighters.

The achievements in the Badr operations are a strong blow to the ears of the Baghdad rulers and an answer to their recent crimes of bombardment of residential areas. It is a manifestation of the righteousness of the Islamic fighters and proof of their determination in their righteous battle against the Baghdad regime.

We, while congratulating the Islamic fighters on their victories and the achievements of the army and the Islamic Guards Corps in the Badr operations, hereby report the achievements of the Badr operations to our martyr-raising nation as follows:

1. During the Badr operations the Islamic fighters succeeded in the east and west of the Tigris to deal fatal blows to Saddam's army by destroying its operational bridges and its communication links, thus raising the overall vulnerability of the Iraqi Army.

2. The entire Hur al-'Azim area south of 'Amarah has been liberated; all its villages and garrisons are occupied by Islamic fighters.

3. During the Badr operations more than 12,000 Iraqi officers and men have been either killed or wounded and the corpses of a notable number of high-ranking Iraqi officers are at present lying on the battlefield.

4. Nearly 500 tanks, armored transport vehicles, heavy and light guns, and all supporting war material of the enemy has been captured intact by the Islamic fighters.

5. Hundreds of pieces of light and heavy arms, together with individual and collective trenches, and hundreds of tanks, armored vehicles, and self-propelled guns of the enemy have been destroyed under the fire of the Islamic fighters.

6. All enemy defense lines, which had taken ages to build and which had been compared by experts to the Bar-Lev defense line, have been destroyed. Many Iraqi Army permanent bunkers have been captured by the Islamic fighters.

7. More than 3,000 Iraqi soldiers and officers are now prisoners of the Islamic fighters.

8. The strategic Basra-Al-'Amarah road was shelled by the Islamic fighters and roads leading to southern Iraq from the Iraqi center have come under an immediate Iranian threat.

9. The military defeat of the enemy in its confrontation with the Islamic fighters has caused domestic upheaval within the Iraqi state. This is evidenced by the exodus of foreign workers and experts from Iraq, the plunge in the value of the Iraqi dinar, and the increase in the flight of capital by wealthy Iraqis from Iraqi state banks to foreign banks, together with an increase in the numbers of Iraqi refugees.

10. The Badr operations have proved that the Islamic fighters can hit at any time and place they chose. They can hit under any conditions that suit them. They can penetrate Iraq from any point on the battlefront and break Iraq's defensive walls, which the Iraqi regime has spent billions of dollars to build with the help of reactionaries of the region and with arms supplied by world imperialism.

We once again announce that one of the principles of our policy is to retaliate. This Koranic order was issued in order to deal with the destructionists. We answer fist with fist only. When Iraq started bombarding residential areas instead of fighting at the battlefronts and started hitting commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf, and while it dropped 150 missiles on Dezful alone during the past 4 years of war, we in reply only bombed military,

economic and vital points in Iraq. We hit the Baghdad palace dwellers with missiles. We wage war on the battlefronts and give our reply to the enemy with our heroic Islamic fighters. We announce here that our final reply to the Zionist enemy will be even more widespread; the fire will be more intense than hitherto experienced by Iraq.

We call upon the brave Iraqi officers and men of the Iraqi army to separate themselves from the Ba'thist Iraqi party line as soon as they can and join with their nation and the Iraqi fighters and revolutionaries who have been present during the Badr operations. They should not sacrifice themselves for the megalomania of the Saddam regime and Michael 'Aflaq which is already at the end of its political rope, because after the defeat of the Saddam regime, it seems very unlikely that Iraqi people will be able to forgive those who served Saddam to his very end.

[signed] Khatam ol-Anbiya Joint Operational Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

Another Attack on Baghdad

LD180908 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA -- The Iranian forces inretaliation for Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities on Sunday, hit theIraqi capital at 12:00 (08:30 GMT) today.

A high-ranking Iranian military official told IRNA that it seems Iraq has not learned its lessons and has continued missile and aerial attacks against defenceless Iranian civilians.

"Therefore, it needs other lessons to come to its senses and stop hitting Iranian residential areas."

Recently, he added, Iranian forces have proved they too could take Iraqi cities as a target in retaliation for numerous Iraqi attacks.

"Experience from the past shows the Iraqi regime understands no language but that of force, and has no respect whatsoever for the lives of innocent people in Iraq or Iran, as well as international agreements.

"Faced with such a situation, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic have no alternative but to talk to the Iraqi rulers with the same language."

He also echoed Iran's plea to Baghdad residents who have not yet evacuated the city, to leave as soon as possible so that Iranian missiles would "only hit the Iraqi criminals and their palaces." The missile attack on Baghdad was reported by the War Information HQs.

"Our combatants will continue their powerful blows on the Iraqi rulers in accordance with the policy of retaliation," it said, if Iraq continued attacks on residential areas, made further use of chemical weapons, and attacked more ships in the Persian Gulf.

"They will turn Baghdad into a ruin," it warned.

"The annihilating missiles of the Islamic combatants will only be targetted at the heart of Baghdad's murderous rulers, as well as the center of their domination.

"Perhaps the Baghdad rulers would then come to their senses and stop attacks on Iranian cities and non-military centers."

The statement said the missile attack was in retaliation for Iraqi missile attacks on Dezful and Andimeshk, and an aerial attack on Bakhtaran on Sunday, and today's air attacks on Tabriz and Hamadan.

Tabriz, Arak Attacked

LD181000 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA — The East Azarbayjan capital city of Tabriz was bombed by the Iraqi planes at 11:00 local time (07:30 GMT) Monday.

The air raid was carried out while people of the city were holding a mas funeral for those martyred in previous Iraqi attacks.

The Iraqi warplanes hit two points of the city and so far no report of casualties is available. Meanwhile the central town of Arak was bombed by a number of intruding Iraqi jetfighters at 11:25 local time (07:55 GMT) Monday. Detailed reports will follow.

Furthermore airspaces of Hamadan in Hamadan Province and Isfahan in Esfahan Province were violated by the Iraqi planes this morning. The planes were immediately chased away by the Iranian antiaircraft units stationed in the cities.

Missiles Fall Close to Palace

LD181129 Tehran IRNA in English 1126 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 18, IRNA — The missile fire by the Islamic Republic on Baghdad today fell closer to Saddam's palace than the two previous missiles.

A Baghdad resident told IRNA by telephone that the missile rattled central Baghdad's administrative and financial area. He said many ambulances were busy transferring the killed and inured from the scene.

Iraqi security forces are strictly prohibiting foreign reporters and diplomats to enter the area.

Iraqi Warplanes Shot Down

LD181210 Tehran IRNA in English 1159 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Khatam Ol-Anbiya HQs, March 18, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane was shot down in the southern operational region today, the joint staff said.

It was the third Iraqi plane shot down in the south since operation Badr was launched a week ago.

A military commander told IRNA that operation Badr was carried out for the purpose of destroying enemy forces and punishing the enemy for savage attacks on Iranian cities.

"The passage of the Islamic forces from the Hawr al-Huwizah marsh and the destruction of fortified enemy positions east of Tigris, was an operation with little precedent in the whole of the Iraqi imposed war," he said.

The commander said the Islamic forces had captured the most sophisticated computerised radar surveillance equipment in the Badr theater.

The equipment included a closed-circuit television network which could spot the slightest ground movement in an area with a 20 km radius, he added.

"The impossibles can turn into possibles" with divine blessings, he said.

More than 12,000 Iraqi soldiers have so far been killed or wounded in the operation, more than 3,000 have been captured; 500 tanks, personnel carriers, vehicles and other equipment have been seized undamaged, and 500 more tanks and personnel carriers have been demolished.

Guard Corps condolences

LD181139 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of the Central Region in a statement condoled and congratulated the 12th Imam and Imam Khomeyni, and the nation on the martyrdom of the brave commander of Islam, Haj 'Abbas Karimi, the commander of the Mohammad Rasul al-Allah Division. The people of Tehran and especially the moblization forces have been invited to take part in the funeral service to be held tomorrow at 0800 at the Imam Khomeyni Mosque situated in Tehran Bazaar.

Baghdad 'In Chaos'

LD181348 Tehran IRNA in English 1341 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 18, IRNA — Baghdad is in chaos after being hit by three Iranian missile attacks in five days and residents, specially stunned foreigners, scramble to move into safe Iraqi cities or leave the country. "Peoples army" units and security guards are on the alert throughout the city.

Passengers who arrived here after the first missile attack on the Iraqi capital said Baghdad reisdents were leaving the city after hearing warnings on Iran's Arabic-language broadcast.

One of the passengers from Baghdad who requested anonymity, told IRNA that Iran's ability to fire missiles at Baghdad from hundreds of kms away had tipped the balance of power in favour of Iran more than ever.

He said he had heard the explosion from the missile attack on Al-Rafidayn Bank from his home 25 kms away. "The people in the city could not believe it. The attack created a wave of anxiety throughout the city," he said. He said the 18th floor of the bank building was an important intelligence and eavesdropping center of the state security organisation. The destruction of the bank itself has also inflicted a permanent blow to the financial network in the country, and seriously damaged the central bank and other banks and government buildings in the vicinity. Iraqis know that no one could have carried and planted such amount of explosives in the building, specially with extra-tight security measures which was enforced there, he said.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Iraq Threat to Airlines

LD181311 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Following the inhuman action taken by the Iraqi regime in violation of international regulations in threatening passenger airlines, the spokesman of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced:

The silence of international organizations and the absence of any decisive action against cases of violations of international regulations by Iraq, such as attacks on residential areas, use of chemical weapons, and attacks on tankers, has encouraged this regime in its inhuman and illegal acts of spreading the war to such an extent that it is now threatening innocent passengers on airliners. He added: Since the outset, we have warned the world against the unpredictable and dangerous outcome of Saddam's acts against international regulations. Attacks on civilian areas, the use of chemical weapons, and their dangerous outcomes have repeatedly been discussed with various countries and international organizations. When the Iraqi regime began attacking tankers in the Persian Gulf, we announced to the international organizations and the countries of the region that Iraq is trying to spread the war and to disturb the security of the region, and that it is necessary for this dangerous act to be decisively confronted. Unfortunately however, no proper step was taken to stop this warmongering action by Iraq. We now see that all the countries of the region are affected by the lack of security and the spreading of tension caused by the Iraqi attacks on oil tankers.

The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: The effect of the threats made by Iraq against passenger airlines and the rendering of airspace unsafe is another step toward spreading the war and increasing the tension in the region. The threat is not restricted to the airspaces of Iran and Iraq and might affect all the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to inform international organizations and to draw their attention to this inhuman and illegal action of the Iraqi regime and to its ill effects. Iran has sent notes to the international domestic airlires organization, the International Air Transport Association and hopes that the countries of the region and international organizations are aware of this action of the Iraqi regime, and are taking proper steps to stop the illegal acts of that regime.